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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Delegates on Progress in Negotiations

'Asfur on Security Committee Talks

NC1201154194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Taba, 12 Jan (MENA)—Hasan 'Asfur, head of the Security Committee at the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Taba, has said that the agreement that will be reached after Taba talks on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles is divided into four sections: the general principles section—which will define terms in general—a security annex, a civilian annex, and an economic annex.

In an exclusive statement, he said that the agreement reached by the Economic Committee in Paris will help conclude the civil agreement.

'Asfur said differences over the three main issues of Jericho's size, the border crossings, and the security of settlements still exist. He said all issues will be discussed regardless of the Israeli claims that these issues were decided at the Cairo meeting.

The Palestinian official said that an agreement has been reached to place the Musa al-'Alami project under Palestinian supervision and to keep the 3-km-deep security region containing land mines between Jordan and Jericho under Israeli supervision. The two sides also agreed to establish "a safe passage" between Gaza and Jericho by using an already existing road under Israeli security supervision and Palestinian protection, he said. There will be no need to build a new road or tunnel as proposed earlier, he added.

'Asfur explained that the issue of the border crossings has not been settled yet. He said the Palestinians want the King Husayn Bridge with Jordan to be under Palestinian administrative authority and for it to be connected with Jericho by a special road under full Palestinian supervision. He said the same measures will be applied to the Rafah crossing in Gaza.

Concerning Gaza, 'Asfur said, the Palestinian delegation is not asking for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the strip at this stage, but is demanding that the area of the settlements be reduced to no more than 6 percent of the strip's overall area, not 10 percent as the Israelis are demanding. It is more important, he said, that the Israeli military presence in Gaza be reduced, that the geographic and political unity of the strip remain untouched, and that the strip not be divided by Israeli roads to protect the settlements, as this would divide Gaza into a form of Palestinian settlement and undermine its geographic unity. He said the Gaza Strip must be a security, geographic, and political unit under the self-rule authority.

The Palestinian official stressed the importance of the Israelis respecting the set three-week period for the talks and withdrawing fully from Gaza and Jericho before 13 April in accordance with the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

Al-Tarifi on Civic Committee Talks

JN1201190394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Interview with Jamil al-Tarifi, Palestinian co-chairman of the Civic Committee at the Taba Talks with Israel, by Hasan Abu-Zayid at Taba Hotel on 12 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Tarifi] We convened two sessions yesterday, including a restricted one attended by committee chairmen and the chief Palestinian and Israeli delegates. We reviewed the remaining items—there were approximately 19—on the Civic Committee's agenda. These include direct and indirect taxes, the treasury, and other items that were also addressed by the Economic Committee's talks in Paris. We also (?found) a way to transfer powers in these areas. As for outstanding issues, we will try to finalize them next week. These include such things as electricity, water, highways [al-turuq al-'ammah], pension funds, etc... Today we looked at archeology; we are not through with this subject yet. We will also discuss water-related issues and city planning next week.

[Abu-Zayid] The Civic Committee is said to have made tangible progress from the beginning.

[Al-Tarifi] The problems the Civic Committee has to contend with are fewer than those encountered by other committees. This is not to say that we did not encounter any obstacles. Yesterday, we worked out ways to surmount hurdles.

[Abu-Zayid] What are the issues that have yet to be dealt with by the Civic Committee?

[Al-Tarifi] We transferred the work of approximately 20 authorities, and about 19 authorities remain. I think that, God willing, next week will see us complete their transfer.

[Abu-Zayid] And what about the water issue?

[Al-Tarifi] We will address that next week, God willing.

[Abu-Zayid] You looked at the archeology issue today.

[Al-Tarifi] That's right. We exchanged ideas about the issue. The Israeli side brought along experts and we had one. We had a general exchange of ideas ahead of a more detailed discussion next week about a transfer of authority and powers to the Palestinians.

[Abu-Zayid] What is your assessment of this week's talks in Taba?

[Al-Tarifi] I think the resumption of the talks in itself is something extremely positive. We hope we will wrap up our work as quickly as possible. However, we should not let ourselves be unduly constrained by the time element, since this accord is supposed to meet our national aspirations and the Palestinian understanding of the accord. The time factor is important for the Palestinians. We must realize, however, that it is equally important for the Israelis. But let us not let ourselves become obsessed with the time factor by committing ourselves to a time frame of

one week or two or three. More importantly, we must implement the accord so as to meet national Palestinian aspirations.

[Abu-Zayid] The Security Committee is moving slowly, isn't it?

[Al-Tarifi] The nature of the problems there, I think, is somewhat intractable. But we hope they will be sorted out.

[Abu-Zayid] We were given to understand the talks will conclude today.

[Al-Tarifi] You understood right.

Shahaq Views First Week of Taba Talks

TA1201170894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks, said a short while ago that the first week of talks ended without a breakthrough on security issues. At the same time, he stressed that understandings have been achieved on several issues regarding the transfer of civilian authority. On the phone from Taba is our correspondent Netan'el Semrik:

A short time ago, the first week of the Taba talks ended. Let us hear a statement made here a few minutes ago by the head of the Israeli delegation, Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahaq:

[Begin Shahaq recording] Today we are concluding the talks for this week, to my regret, because of last night's tragedy. Most of the delegates are leaving to attend the funeral of the Maj. Gen. Nehemya Tamari tomorrow. We had planned to be here until tomorrow night, and we will return here next Monday [17 January] to continue the talks.

Over the past week, we continued the meetings of both the Security and the Civilian Committees. We have not reached full conclusion on any of the issues. We have, however, definitely reached understandings on more than one of the civilian issues. We will continue the negotiations in both fields next week. [end recording]

PLO: Fatah Hawks, Israel Agree on Cease-Fire

TA1201151594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 94 p A2

[Interview with Muhammad Dahlan, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, by Gay Bekhor in Taba on 11 January]

[Text] "In the meeting Amnon Shahaq and Jacques Neriya had with me and Jibril Rajab in Rome a 'gentlemen's agreement' was reached on a cease-fire between the Fatah Hawks and the Israeli Government. It was agreed that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Fatah Hawks would not fire at each other, and the agreement has so far been honored. It was also agreed that the Fatah Hawks would not keep firearms, which would only be held by the Fatah apparatus in the Gaza Strip."

These remarks were made yesterday by former Fatah Hawks commander Muhammad Dahlan, in an interview with HA'ARETZ. Dahlan is now one of the leaders of Fatah Tunis' security apparatus, after being deported from the Gaza Strip by Israel. Dahlan and other Fatah leaders are expected to receive significant control on the ground when the withdrawal agreement is implemented.

[Bekhor] Dahlan, let us assume a Palestinian terrorist commits murder in Israeli territory and escapes to territory under Palestinian control. What will be his fate?

[Dahlan] It seems to me that we would try him, but that is something that still has to be negotiated. There are hundreds of similar questions, such as the area of jurisdiction, which will be discussed in the negotiations.

[Bekhor] The delegations are now discussing the upcoming withdrawal from Gaza, and a central issue, such as the area of jurisdiction, has still not been resolved?

[Dahlan] I am sure that such issues can be solved within two hours. Anyway, we already have a plan to safeguard the roads within the Palestinian area.

[Bekhor] What about intelligence coordination with the Shin Bet?

[Dahlan] That has still not been discussed, but is due to come up in the respective committee. Cooperation between the Israel Police and the Palestinian police has already been discussed, but how to deal with terrorism has still not been worked out. We are divided on the basic issue of what constitutes terrorism.

[Bekhor] How do you plan to deal with the problem of collaborators?

[Dahlan] They all belong to the underworld: pimps and drug dealers who found refuge in Israel, so take them. This is our decision and the decision of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]: Take them, and we, for humanitarian reasons, will take only their women and children. In the past a decision was made to liquidate the collaborators, but after the signing of the agreement in Washington in September, the approach changed. That was also the leadership's decision.

[Bekhor] In the past there were rumors that you had ordered the extermination of Fatah activist Muhammad Abu-Sha'ban.

[Dahlan] They are only rumors. The Fatah Hawks have no part in murders. Had Fatah done it, it would have been known. I was a friend of Muhammad's.

[Bekhor] How do you think the Palestinian security system will deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists?

[Dahlan] I can tell you that we agreed that there would be no terrorism between the Palestinian entity and the Islamic elements.

[Bekhor] The bad relations between the nationalist regimes and the Islamic streams are, in fact, a regional problem.

[Dahlan] In the Palestinian camp it is different. Hamas and Islamic Jihad are anti-Israeli and not anti-Palestinian. They are not opposed to us.

[Bekhor] What is the security outlook that will guide you on your return to the Gaza Strip?

[Dahlan] The way we see the security issue is different from how the Shin Bet views it. Their concept is built on threats, revenge, and undermining, while we will base our policy on four things: First, forging a link between the Palestinian people and their security apparatus. Second, building a security system that will be accompanied by economic and social moves, which will reduce the level of pressure on the Palestinians. Third, we intend to employ young men with a security background in our security system, nationalists with whom others can identify.

[Bekhor] In other words, men on the wanted list?

[Dahlan] You can call them that. Fourth, there will be cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli systems. We will use all the Shin Bet and IDF installations, which will be evacuated when the withdrawal starts. We agreed between us that the Army and police will not destroy any installations but will transfer them to us.

[Bekhor] Have the commanders of the Palestinian police force and the security apparatus already been appointed?

[Dahlan] No names have not been finalized. There is a security committee in Tunis, of which I am a member, and the commanders will be chosen from among the members.

[Bekhor] Who will appoint the commanders?

[Dahlan] Abu-'Ammar does the appointing. Who else makes such appointments in the Third World?

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Condemns Building of Jerusalem Settlement

NC1201155994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat General has denounced Israel's building of a new settlement in Jerusalem. In a statement issued today, the Arab League said: At a time when all international and Arab efforts are being devoted to establishing permanent and just peace in the Middle East on the basis of the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, Israel is defying the international will by continuing to establish settlements in the Arab territories. The latest was the establishment of a new settlement on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

The Arab League affirmed that this settlement is considered a link in the chain of Israeli attempts to Judaize the Arab territories. It also comes in the wake of the Israeli Supreme Court's decision on 23 September 1993 to regard the al-Aqsa Mosque as part of Israeli territory.

The statement said: While strongly condemning this Israeli measure because it constitutes a grave violation of the will of the international community and the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 252, the Arab League Secretariat General views this measure as an attempt to impose a fait accompli. It also views this measure as a big obstacle in the way of the current peace talks to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which stipulates that the Jerusalem issue will be discussed within the framework of a final solution.

The statement called on the international community and all the effective forces in the world to put an end to the deliberate Israeli violations in the occupied Arab territories in implementation of the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy and to safeguard the unique character of Jerusalem as a city where the heavenly religions and human civilizations coexist.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets France's Juppe, Comments

NC1301102394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and his delegation today.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said afterward that they discussed several important issues, including the Middle East peace process, the Libyan-Western problem, Bosnia, and the Euro-Arab dialogue. He added that they exchanged views on promoting ties between France and Arab countries and discussed cooperation among the Mediterranean basin countries in light of France's relations with European and Arab countries and with the Mediterranean countries in general.

He said he explained the Arab view on the Lockerbie issue and expressed his appreciation of Egyptian and Tunisian efforts in this regard. He called for not escalating the situation and for treating Libya in a manner that will preserve its rights.

On Middle East peace, he said they discussed France's support for the peace process. The French side, he added, asserted its concern that the timetable agreed by the Israeli and Palestinian sides should be respected and that peace should be comprehensive and just.

As for Iraq, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he and the French minister exchanged views on it. He affirmed that the Arab League wants to ensure Iraq's unity and territorial integrity and the need for Iraq to respect Security Council resolutions and Kuwait's sovereignty as an independent state.

Asked about the crisis in Yemen, the Arab League secretary general said: We are in touch with the brothers in Yemen and the dialogue committee will pursue its task. He noted all the Yemeni parties' interest in unity as a primary principle and in finding a solution within the general framework of the agreement between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid. He said he would not hesitate if he were given the chance to go to Yemen to participate in the reconciliation efforts.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said 'Pressing on' With Democratization

AU1201175894 Paris AFP in English 1723 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Paris, Jan 12 (AFP)—Yasir 'Arafat is pressing on with democratisation of his Palestine Liberation Organisation and is taking account of demands for greater delegation of authority ahead of autonomy for Jericho and Gaza, a PLO official said here on Wednesday [12 January].

PLO representative in France Layla Shahid said 'Arafat was breaking out of his "personalised style" and taking account of demands for democracy and greater accountability in nominations being made in the runup to autonomy.

"I think that surely in the coming months all these requests for more delegation of authority to others will have to be be taken into consideration," Shahid told members of the Anglo-American Press Association here.

She said this was already evident in nominations to the Palestinian Economic Reconstruction and Development Agency (PECDA) established to channel funds to the autonomous areas when negotiations with the Israelis on autonomy have been completed.

Donor countries have pledged two billion dollars in aid over the next five years, 580 million of it this year, to Jericho and Gaza, and accountability and openness were essential to avert the threat of corruption, Shahid said.

She added that planned elections would bring "major changes to the PLO's nature that will ultimately lead to a full parliament" taking over from the Palestinian National Council.

Shahid said the democratic debate was taking place worldwide through petitions or in the Arab press because for the moment the PLO had no institutions and no capital. It was vital to "strengthen the beginning of this process of democratisation," she said. "All this part of the internal debate I find very healthy."

She said PECDA, whose task will be to fund basic infrastructure, would be able to start functioning on the ground by next month.

A Palestinian delegation led by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi went to PLO headquarters in Tunis on January 2 to press for greater democracy, but said they failed in their mission. 'Arafat had agreed to meet the delegation after receiving petitions demanding change.

Shahid said that economic autonomy talks being held here between Israel and the PLO would resume on January 18 and would be boosted by last week's monetary accord between the PLO and Jordan. A new meeting of donor countries under World Bank auspices would be held at the end of the month.

The PLO representative said she hoped U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting in Geneva next Sunday with Syrian head of state Hafiz al-Asad would lead to an early resumption of bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria on the Golan Heights.

Abu-Sharif on Israel-PLO Peace Process

TA1301120494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 7 Jan 94 pp 7, 26

[Report on interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, by Mira Avrekh in Paris "this week"]

[Text] " 'Arafat has no choice. He must first prove to the Palestinians that the step he is taking serves their national interests. Only after he succeeds in doing that will he be able to reduce the influence of his opposition, of the opponents of peace. I think his current obstinacy is a mistake, but so is the big fuss the Israelis are making over petty issues."

The speaker is Bassam Abu-Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, who has long been at the PLO leader's side. "The problem is not 'Arafat," he told me this week in a meeting in Paris. "The problem is that the Palestinian negotiators give the Israeli representatives the impression that what they agree on is final, and they fail to explain to them that they do not have the final say and that they must get the approval of the PLO leadership.

"True, 'Arafat is in charge of implementation, but he can act only according to the decisions of the PLO Executive. 'Arafat must comply with the PLO constitution, just as Yitzhaq Rabin is accountable to Israeli law.

"In my opinion, neither 'Arafat nor Rabin are to blame. Each of them is entitled to see and explain the problem his own way. Let me give you an example: The Oslo agreement refers to 'Jericho'; not 'the city of Jericho,' but just plain 'Jericho.' 'Arafat reads this as the Jericho area, while Rabin takes it to mean the city of Jericho."

[Avrekh] "If so, what is the solution?"

[Abu-Sharif] "Seeing that both the Israelis and the Palestinians decided on peace, I do not think time should be wasted on minor issues."

[Avrekh] "How would you settle it?"

[Abu-Sharif] "Personally, the problem of the autonomous area of Jericho is completely marginal, I would even say irrational. After all, we decided in principle that Israel will get out of the area in exchange for a far bigger goal—that is, a Middle East common market." [end Abu-Sharif]

I met with Abu-Sharif in a small apartment, put at his disposal by a friend, on the 19th floor of a building overlooking the Seine and the Eiffel Tower. Abu-Sharif is recovering from an ear operation to restore the hearing faculties he lost about 20 years ago when a package sent to him blew up in his hands. At that time, he was considered a senior Fatah terrorist, and it is assumed that the parcel was sent to him by the Israeli Mosad. This man, whose face was disfigured, nevertheless went on to become an ardent "dove."

The door of the apartment was opened carefully, just a few centimeters, by a blond French security officer with a walkie-talkie in his hand. Next to him was another Frenchman armed with a gun. Two other French security men were inside the apartment. The French Government sees to Abu-Sharif's security during his stay. Whenever he leaves the apartment, his entourage includes two cars, both of them carrying French bodyguards.

The lounge is filled with smoke. There are large ashtrays and glasses of whiskey on the tables, and dozens of well-wishers calling on him after his operation: Palestinians; Lebanese working for UNESCO; a Jordanian guy who came especially from Amman; a rich Saudi who is a close friend of multimillionaire Adnan Khashoggi; many Frenchmen, such as the adviser of the mayor of Paris who returned that very same day from a visit to Syria and Iraq. As soon as I was introduced as an Israeli journalist, everybody wanted to talk and to exchange views about the Israel-PLO peace process.

The phone rang continuously: Tunis, New York, Frankfurt, and again Tunis; the presidt of Yemen wants to speak to Abu-Sharif; then it is Madrid, Rome. Suddenly, a female friend calls out: "Bassam, it is Tunis on the line! The president wants you!" Abu-Sharif immerses himself in a long talk with 'Arafat.

[Avrekh] "Some say you are 'out,' that you are no longer part of 'Arafat's closest circle."

[Abu-Sharif] "Nonsense! He asked me to pack my things and accompany him to Jericho. I asked him whether he would like me to leave before him in order to prepare the ground for his arrival. He replied: 'No, I want you by my side when it is time to go'."

[Avrekh] "If so, where did the rumors come from?"

[Abu-Sharif] "Neither I nor my friends can be out. We are the founders. I am never far from the center of action, and that will also be the case in the future."

[Avrekh] "Why did 'Arafat not take you along to the signing ceremony in Washington?"

[Abu-Sharif] "It was beneath me to ask. My job is to promote the process of peace negotiations, and that is far more important than attending ceremonies. In the future, too, my duties will keep me away from ceremonies. After all, it is a known fact that I was the first Palestinian who pushed for negotiations with Israel. I have been the key figure pushing for such negotiations since 1988." [end Abu-Sharif]

One may quite safely assume that Abu-Sharif harbors a certain amount of resentment toward 'Arafat, who failed to send him to Oslo as one of his representatives, take him to the ceremony in Washington, or give him a job on the negotiating delegation. If such resentment exists, however, Abu-Sharif goes to great lengths now to show it in any way.

[Avrekh] "How big is the camp within the PLO that supports you and your views?"

[Abu-Sharif] "A camp? There is no defined camp. We are the mainstream of the PLO. There are thousands who agree with me, and I am not necessarily talking about PLO members; I am talking about academics, technocrats, young and talented Palestinians. They are all in favor of peace. They are fed up with the bloodshed, just as Israelis are. They are eagerly waiting elections in the territories."

[Avrekh] "What do you think should be the next step in the process?"

[Abu-Sharif] "What is most important now is to establish institutions, to determine economic plans and form economic institutions manned by talented Palestinians. We have thousands of such youngsters, university graduates. Unfortunately, there is a serious dispute in our ranks over this issue. Some PLO leaders do not realize that if they fail to include high-caliber Palestinians, even if they are not members of the PLO, they will not be able to make progress. They must realize that the PLO is an organization, while the Palestinians are a people.

"It is important not to waste time and energy on petty quarrels, on a meter here or there, and focus on strategic goals—namely, the solidification of economic cooperation in the entire region. I am talking about a common market made up of Israel, the Palestinians, and the other Arab states."

[Avrekh] "But the fact remains that the PLO has not yet presented any plans or set up economic cooperation institutions in the territories. Has 'Arafat drafted any economic plan?"

[Abu-Sharif] "In my opinion, one of the mistakes of the PLO is that it is having a hard time moving from revolution to statehood. There is an enormous difference between an organization and a country. Ben-Gurion, too, was forced to abolish prestate underground organizations such as the Irgun and the Palmah, because he knew it would be impossible to found a state with so many political movements."

[Avrekh] "What is the main obstacle to progress in the peace process?"

[Abu-Sharif] "I am sorry to say that many people, both Arabs and Israelis, do not see the situation clearly. Only a few have the necessary vision. Shim'on Peres is an example of a man with such vision, and there are also a few Palestinians; however, the lack of vision of many people is what is causing problems in the negotiations."

[Avrekh] "Does 'Arafat realize that he might 'miss the train'?"

[Abu-Sharif] "The peace process will not stop. When all is said and done, both we and the Israelis want to promote it. Nonetheless, the Israelis must realize that the Palestinians are Israel's bridge to the Middle East, while the Palestinians must see that the political plan they yearn for can only be attained through cooperation with Israel. Three-sided cooperation is needed at this stage between Israel, Jordan,

and the Palestinians. This will constitute the first step toward a Middle East common market."

[Avrekh] "But does 'Arafat understand that through his behavior over the past few weeks he has been sabotaging the chances of realizing the ideas you have just described?"

[Abu-Sharif] "Peace and its implementation can no longer be killed by anybody. Whoever tries to do so will disappear. 'Arafat knows that very well. After all, he had the courage to step forward and extend his hand to Rabin."

[Avrekh] "You have stressed the importance of economic cooperation several times. I have heard that you are now doing business with Adnan Khashoggi. Is that true?"

[Abu-Sharif] "Let me tell you something funny. I first met Khashoggi here in Paris. I was staying in a hotel that has three suites: Khashoggi was in one, I was in another, and Ari'el Sharon was in the third. Khashoggi conducted 'shuttle trips' between Sharon's suite and mine in a bid to attain negotiations about Gaza. Sharon was prepared to give the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians, but the PLO would not agree to an arrangement that included only Gaza, which Sharon insisted on seeing as the final solution. Nothing came of it.

"I have since met with Khashoggi on a number of occasions, all of them at President 'Arafat's instructions and never for private business. For example, I met with him shortly before the Gulf war. He was running back and forth between Saudi Arabia and Iraq in an attempt to prevent the war."

[Avrekh] "Does everybody in the PLO agree with 'Arafat's moves?"

[Abu-Sharif] "As is known, the PLO is made up of various organizations. Each one of them, however big or small, is independent. The largest and strongest of them is Fatah, which has a huge majority in the PLO. That is why any internal argument in Fatah automatically becomes a PLO problem.

"Yes, everybody accepts the plan in principle, but there are differences about the implementation, just as there are arguments between Rabin and his cabinet ministers. That is legitimate.

"There have always been differences within the Fatah leadership. The point is that when such conflicts break out at a time of delicate political negotiations, they stand out more than they ordinarily would. At the same time, it is clear to all that 'Arafat is the indisputable leader of Fatah. To wit, although the last Fatah congress passed a resolution to the effect that everybody should compete for his position, it was unanimously decided that 'Arafat would not have to compete and would remain the No. 1 man."

[Avrekh] "Somebody told me that Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] was five votes short of reelection and almost did not make it. Suddenly there was a power outage, the computer went down, and 'Arafat announced that Abu-Mazin had been elected. How true is this report?"

[Abu-Sharif] "If what you heard is true, 'Arafat did it because he supports the peace process and needs the votes of all those who support it, such as Abu-Mazin (laughing). But you should not infer from this that they always see eye to eye.

"Nonetheless, it proves that 'Arafat is the man who calls the shots. However you look at it, 'Arafat is the man who runs Fatah and the PLO. In spite of all the complications, he is the man who can deliver the goods, and he will do so."

AL-BA'TH on Palestinian Alliance Statement

JN1301110594 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 7 Jan 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus, SANA—The secretaries general and representatives of the 10 Palestinian factions held a news conference at noon yesterday. Arab and foreign news agencies correspondents attended the news conference held at the al-Khalisah compound in al-Yarmuk camp.

Attending the news conference were: Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi al-Sa'iqah, secretary general; Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Fatah Movement's Central Committee; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLFP-GC]; Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement; Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF]; 'Arabi 'Awwad, secretary general of the Palestinian Revolutionary Communist Party [PRCP]; Abu-'Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]; Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas Political Bureau member and official spokesman; Abu-Layla [Qays al-Samarra'i], member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Political Bureau; 'Ali 'Aziz, Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] Political Bureau member; and several representatives of these factions' commands.

At the start of the news conference, the formation of the Alliance of Palestinian forces comprising the 10 Palestinian factions was announced.

A statement in the name of the alliance was then read. The statement stresses the need to abide by the Palestinian National Charter, and the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights to Palestine, their homeland, and to repatriation, self-determination, and complete national independence. The statement also emphasizes that the Palestinian cause is an Arab and Islamic cause and that the liberation of Palestine is the responsibility of the Arab and Islamic nation, most of all the Palestinian people.

The statement stresses the importance of the Palestinian people's unity, territorial integrity, and the unity of their cause, objectives, and national fate, and the abidance by all their national and historical rights. The statement says that no one has the right to give up any of these rights, and views the Gaza-Jericho agreement as not binding for the Palestinian people. The statement calls for clinging to Palestine as an irreplaceable historical homeland for the

Palestinian people, and for opposing all the schemes for a substitute homeland, resettlement, transfer, compensation, or attempts to obliterate the Palestinian people's national identity.

In its statement, the alliance calls for continuing intifadah activities. It emphasizes that the Palestine question is the core of the Arab-Zionist conflict, and stresses the need for bolstering joint Palestinian militant ties.

The statement emphasizes the right of the Palestinian people in the diaspora to exercise their militant responsibilities alongside the nationalist, Arab, and Islamic forces to promote liberation, return, self-determination, and full national independence.

The statement calls for stepping up cooperation with the Islamic, Asian, and African states as well as with all the friendly nations standing by the struggle of our Palestinian people and supporting their inalienable national rights. It emphasizes the importance of forging an alliance with all the forces for liberation and progress around the world—the forces that support our national rights.

The statement calls for work to disseminate all that relates to the Palestinian cause and the national struggle to win the widest public opinion over to the cause of our struggle and rights, and to make the case that Gaza-Jericho agreement neither amounts to a solution nor brings peace.

The statement says the alliance will form a Central Command, which will be responsible for formulating its decisions and policies that are based on the alliance's political tasks.

The Central Command will include two representatives of each faction, while its secretariat will include one representative of each faction.

The Alliance of Palestinian forces groups the following factions: The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas; the PFLP-GC; the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah; the PFLP; the DFLP; al-Sa'iqah Organization; the PPSF; the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, the the PRCP; and the PLF.

The secretaries general then answered questions posed by journalists on issues relating to the situation in the Palestinian arena.

Fatah Activists Deny Withdrawing Resignations

TA1201143694 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Jan 94 pp 1, 5

[By Ziyad 'Abbas]

[Excerpt] Three leading Hebron region Fatah activists have denied a report published by HA'ARETZ on 9 January that three Hebron Fatah leaders—Jibril al-Bakri, Dhiyab al-Sharabati, and Ihsan al-Nazir—had withdrawn their resignations, submitted three days earlier, in the wake of a telephone conversation they held with Yasir 'Arafat on Friday [7 January] night. The three stressed that their resignations were still in effect and that the HA'ARETZ report was unfounded. [passage omitted]

Yasin Says Mosad Told of PLO Bid on Shamir

NC1301094494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Abu-Dhabi, 13 Jan (MENA)—AL-ITTIHAD today cites Arab diplomatic sources in London as saying that the latest confessions by 'Adnan Yasin, a Palestinian official accused of spying for Israel, reveal that he foiled a Palestinian attempt to assassinate former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir two years ago.

The sources said Yasin told the Mosad about an Israeli man recruited by the PLO agencies to assassinate Shamir after arranging a secret visit to Tunis for the Israeli, who was arrested immediately after he returned to Tel Aviv.

Algeria

Parties Submit Document To Ensure Dialogue Success

LD1201211694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Thirteen days before the opening of the national dialogue conference, initiatives and statements calling for optimism are being made to ease the situation and raise people's hopes.

Following the encouraging measures, particularly in the security sphere, that the spokesman of the National Dialogue Commission revealed yesterday, four parties submitted a document to the Higher State Council [HCE] and the National Dialogue Commission [NDC]. This document includes measures to ensure the success of the national dialogue. Mahfoud Mannan has the details:

[Mannan] Today, the national radio received a copy of a document signed by four political parties: the National Liberation Front [FLN], the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, HAMAS, and al-Nahdah.

The document contains supporting measures to ensure the success of the national dialogue. The aforementioned parties addressed it to the HCE and the NDC.

The document includes 14 measures, among which are: adopting measures for the benefit of the leading members of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] to allow them to participate in making the national dialog ? successful; closing the security centers and releasing people under administrative detention who have no charges against them or have been sentenced for their opinions; easing the security measures ensuing from the state of emergency to pave the way for lifting them; abolishing the restrictions imposed on political activity; suspending the work of the special courts to pave the way for the abolition of emergency courts and laws; ceasing raids and different types of infringement; investigating torture crimes; respecting the freedom of the press; return of the suspended newspapers; and putting an end to the harassment against journalists on account of their opinion.

A short while ago, colleague Chaabane Oulebi talked on the phone with al-Nahdah Movement leader Shaykh Djaballah and asked him about the content of this document.

[Begin recording] [Djaballah] We submitted the document with a sincere desire to provide a suitable atmosphere and the necessary conditions for the success of the national dialogue. We therefore believe that solutions to the crises the country is experiencing must be found only through national dialogue. But we see that the dialogue is still at an impasse. Thus, we have been pressing since the start of the national dialogue, not only from today, from the first meeting with the HCE and in the different meetings, for the need to adopt measures to help the national dialogue succeed and to restore the people's peace of mind. What the NDC announced yesterday represents the first useful and encouraging steps, but these are insufficient.

[Oulebi] Mr. Djaballah, you said the dialogue was still at an impasse, but we have noticed that the sides that took part in putting forward this issue, also participated in the meetings with the NDC and put forward these demands. Have you discussed among yourselves the issue of participating or not participating in the national dialogue conference, because we are a few days away from it?

[Djaballah] We were extremely frank in our last meeting with the NDC. In principle, we rejected the pilot study proposed by the NDC and rejected it for objective and extremely precise reasons. We have presented our point of view verbally and also presented it in writing.

[Oulebi] You say that the dialogue has reached a dead end, but if we read some of the demands mentioned in the platform, they are nearly either about to be implemented or included in the preliminary text of the study; for instance, the cancellation of restrictions on political activity, easing the security measures, respecting the citizen's basic rights and general freedom, and respecting the nation's feelings in the mass media. These ideas, or the spirit of these points, are almost available in the pilot study and could have been addressed in more detail either before or after the conference.

[Djaballah] Yes. In truth, there are positive issues, but they are insufficient in our opinion; for instance, of the negative issues present in the pilot study presented by the NDC, I can mention that an agreement was reached with the NDC to exclude the discussion of the program for society [political program on the nature of the regime to be established], but it was noticed today that the document they presented has dealt with the most important constituents of the program for society through what has been mentioned in the preamble, aims, and guarantees. We could mention numerous examples to support this but it would take too long. For instance, it was noticed that the study did not aim at dealing with the situation in the country as much as solving the problems faced by the current authorities. This is in complete contradiction with what has been agreed on regarding the need to direct all efforts to solve Algeria's crises. For example, the study dealt with numerous issues in general and abstract terms, a matter that caused great confusion on the implicit meanings. This is bound to open the door wide for different interpretations and bad explanations now and in the future.

[Oulebi] But Mr. Djaballah, even in political activity, if each side puts forward its own conditions on the basis of which it decides whether to participate or not, is it easy and simple to satisfy all the conditions, even though they might be contradictory, divergent, or ("incoherent), if there were no reciprocal concessions by the sides to the dialogue?

[Djaballah] This is a valid question. This is why we have made a distinction between the administrative and technical issues and those connected with the nature of the important political choices. We said that issues of an administrative and technical nature could be settled by voting. As for the issues dealing with important political

choices, they should be avoided. We called for avoiding these type of issues because it would be difficult to reach a firm decision for two main reasons, the first of which is the difficulty of the subject, and the second is the brevity of the period and the difficulty of the circumstances. Thus, I think that if the study restricted itself to the issues of an administrative and technical nature, the chances of its success would be greater. This is what we wish.

[Ouleki] Mr. Djaballah, will the parties that signed the platform document participate collectively or be absent collectively in the conference, or is the issue of participating or abstaining from the conference a matter that concerns each party? Have you discussed this issue or this possibility?

[Djaballah] We have not discussed this issue until now. I think that the issue concerns each party. I think that.

[Ouleki] In other words, irrespective of the response to the demands present in the platform?

[Djaballah] I think that the issue concerns each party. [end recording]

Many Parties To Clarify Positions on Conference

LD1301104494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Excerpts] The National Dialogue Commission [NDC] is concluding its multilateral talks with political formations in preparation for the convening of the national conference at the scheduled date. Jaouida Khaia reports:

[Khaia] During the last round of its multilateral talks with the dialogue partners which began 5 January, the NDC received 37 political parties and 27 social associations and organizations. Nine small parties did not attend the meetings for undisclosed reasons although some of them offered official apologies, according to sources close to the NDC. The National Liberation Front [FLN] was also absent from the dialogue meeting for the first time. [passage omitted]

It is to be noted that HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] is the only party which has officially announced that it will participate in the national conference. It is expected that the position of the other parties will become clear next week after a meeting of the leading bodies of the al-Nahdah Islamic Movement. the Rally for Culture and Democracy, the FLN, and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

Egypt

Mubarak on Arab Relations, Economy, Terrorism

NC1201205894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Excerpts] President Husni Mubarak, leader of the National Democratic Party [NDP], has chaired a meeting for the party's General Secretariat at the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif noted that this was the first meeting chaired by President Mubarak after forming the new Secretariat. He said the NDP has now formed all its leaderships and structures.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak discussed party and national work at this stage and in the future, touching on several basic issues such as economy, economic reforms and the progress made therein, and the side-effects of the economic reform policy. The president also dealt with a number of political issues, notably national dialogue, democratic practice, confronting terrorism, and the role of the NDP in creating a climate for political and economic reforms and addressing people's daily concerns. [passage omitted]

The information minister said President Mubarak pointed out that the economic situation looms as the most important issue for society. Addressing that issue and creating an appropriate living standard for society is not possible without a sound economy that takes into consideration population growth, the president said.

Mubarak reviewed the developments of the economic crisis that face Egypt and explained the stages of the economic reforms. He noted that the reforms and their progress are not isolated from Egypt's internal and foreign policies. They were linked, he said, to Egypt's ability to restore its Arab and international status, to capitalize on its international relations, and to deal and interact with the issues of the region. He said this ability largely helped achieve international backing for Egypt's economy and cancellation of Egypt's debts. The president pointed out that the debts that were written off were equal in value to Egypt's investments in the rebuilding of the infrastructure during the first and second development plans. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sharif said President Mubarak pointed out the phenomenon of terrorism, which aims to harm Egypt's achievements and the interests of the people. The president stressed his eagerness to serve citizens' interests and ensure security and safety for all Egyptians, noting that all Egyptians reject terrorism. President Mubarak also discussed the role of the NDP in political and social work to strengthen society and mobilize its forces to confront terrorism, expose its false allegations, and protect youths from sliding into wrong notions. [passage omitted]

On the national dialogue, President Mubarak said his call for a dialogue proceeds from the public interest and from a desire to preserve Egypt and the future of its sons. He said he hoped the dialogue will be objective, honest, and devoid of any maneuvers or one-upmanship by any party. [passage omitted]

On foreign policy, President Mubarak discussed Egypt's Arab relations, noting that they are good with all the brothers. He said relations are strong and firm with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia; His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]; and Sultan Qabus of Oman. The president noted cooperation with the leadership, government, and people of Saudi

Arabia, and he also noted strong firm relations with Oman, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain.

The president said the priority is now to achieve Arab reconciliation, and he noted the importance of Arab cooperation and coordination in facing challenges. President Mubarak said that despite differences, Egypt is against any attempt to harm the territorial integrity of Iraq or Sudan, and is against fragmentation and struggle in Yemen. He said Egypt is working with Africa to solve the deteriorating situation in Somalia. On Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mubarak said what the people there are facing can be described as an international scandal.

The information minister said that President Mubarak explained Egypt's role in the Middle East and its attempts to bring viewpoints closer, whether in the meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and U.S. President Bill Clinton, in overcoming the obstacles facing the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, or in moves concerning southern Lebanon. The president noted that the road is still long and needs determination without relinquishment of rights. He also noted Egypt's efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis and said that Egypt interacts with the international community while preserving Egyptian dignity and appreciating the country's weight and culture. He said Egypt knows its Arab role as a backer of the brothers, its African role in defending the causes of the continent, and its Islamic role as an influential country.

French Foreign Minister Juppe Arrives on Visit

NC1201185194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1752 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—French Minister of Foreign Affairs Alain Juppe arrived in Cairo this evening on a two-day official visit, which will be followed by a three-day private visit.

While in Cairo, the French minister will meet with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Juppe's talks with Musa will discuss ways to bolster bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East in light of the ongoing peace negotiations in Taba, France's interest in the Middle East issue, the situation in Somalia and the Horn of Africa, the French role in curbing tension in Africa, and boosting cooperation between Egypt and France in the economic and cultural spheres.

Musa, Juppe Hold Talks

NC1201193594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] This evening, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a preliminary round of talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who arrived in Cairo earlier today on a two-day visit to Egypt.

Musa said President Mubarak will receive the French foreign minister tomorrow and that official talks between the Egyptian and French foreign ministers will begin at noon tomorrow. Musa said the talks will deal with European and international developments, the Middle East situation, African issues, and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The French foreign minister said France appreciates Egypt's role in the Middle East peace process. He noted that NATO yesterday stressed its commitment to a peaceful settlement in former Yugoslavia. Juppe said the OAU under the chairmanship of President Mubarak can play a role in solving the Somali problem.

Mubarak Receives Juppe

NC1301113994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1021 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who attended the meeting, said that the French minister conveyed a message to President Mubarak from French President Francois Mitterrand. He added that Juppe discussed the situation in Europe, bilateral ties, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, developments in the Middle East peace operation, and the situation in Somalia.

Juppe expressed satisfaction with the visit and his meeting with President Mubarak and praised relations between the two countries. He noted that he conveyed a message of amity from President Mitterrand.

He said he hopes cultural cooperation between the two countries will increase, noting that France has established numerous French Language Departments at Egyptian universities and high schools.

He explained that his meeting with Mubarak dealt with numerous international issues, pointing out that France appreciates Egypt's decisive role in the Middle East peace process.

Juppe added: We discussed Egypt's chairmanship of the OAU during our review of African issues, particularly Somalia. Our views were similar on these issues. This became evident after I outlined France's position on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Commentary Views al-Asad-Clinton Summit

NC1201220494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Jan 94

['Atif 'Umar commentary: "The Syrian Cards in the Upcoming al-Asad-Clinton Summit"]

[Text] The eyes of the Arab region are turned toward the upcoming meeting in Geneva Sunday between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. The meeting comes while the world is watching the developments of the Middle East, which sees calm at times and tension at others. Since the convening of the Madrid conference, movements toward peace in the Middle East have taken on new dimensions that finally resulted in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which was signed at the White House amid international welcome,

U.S. support, and Arab backing. All Arab countries showed an eagerness for a just and lasting peace based on a land-for-peace exchange and recognition of the legitimate Palestinian rights as stated in the successive UN resolutions.

That President Clinton fixed his meeting with President al-Asad after contacts and consultations by the U.S. secretary of state in the Syrian capital means that there are far more points of agreement between Washington and Damascus over Middle East issues than differences. If that was not the case, what would the meeting and the talks be for?

Through its contacts and watch of the region's developments, the United States realizes that peace in the region cannot be achieved without Egypt and Syria. Now that things have settled down between Egypt and Israel since the signing of the Camp David agreement, and the two sides have seen the positive economic, political, and even social results of the peace process, this successful experiment can be repeated on the Syrian front. But the Israelis need to realize that the continuation of the current situation will have serious implications. The opponents of peace agreements with Israel use this situation to support their rejectionist positions, and any delay in reaching a genuine peace between the Arabs and Israel would encourage the Israeli parties and individuals that reject peace agreements with the Arabs, especially since a state of anxiety and tension still prevails in Israel due to the violence and counterviolence between Jewish settlers and Palestinians.

The upcoming meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton may prompt a serious call for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Among his cards at the talks, the Syrian president carries unlimited Arab support for reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He also has Saudi support and blessings for reaching a just solution to the Jerusalem problem. And above all, Syria has special relations with Lebanon, which in turn enjoys special relations with the West and the United States, especially since Lebanon has never been involved in any hostile acts against any of its neighbors.

We stress that the U.S. Administration, out of its eagerness to promote the Middle East peace process and to achieve security, stability, and peace in the region, will give these factors due consideration and, consequently, push the Syrian-Israeli track toward serious negotiations to achieve this peace, which all peoples of the region, including the Israeli people, aspire to. The Israeli people reject isolation and demand normalization of relations and the lifting of the trade boycott. These are vital matters for the Israelis, but as the Arab League has announced, they are linked to a full Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 border and to exchanging land for peace.

U.S. Embassy Checks Adherence to Libyan Sanctions

NC1201184994 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Jan 94 pp 1, 9

[Report by Muhmud Bikri]

[Text] In a serious violation of Egyptian sovereignty, members of the U.S. Embassy last week inspected oil equipment in Alexandria and the Red Sea that the government has recently imported. They claim that the Egyptian Government has shipped to the Libyan Jamahiriyah imported oil equipment worth more than $75 million.

The U.S. action caused displeasure in several Egyptian circles, which confirmed reports in this regard. They emphasized that the U.S. Embassy's inspection of some oil and other industrial equipment is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of Egyptian sovereignty.

The United States has threatened to suspend some deals, including deals involving oil equipment, already concluded with the Egyptian Government. It has also threatened to impose economic sanctions against Egypt following U.S. reports that Egypt has allegedly violated the UN economic sanctions against Libya. The United States claims that various U.S. agencies have detected about 560 Egyptian violations of the UN economic sanctions against Libya. It also claims that there are existing trade exchanges between the two countries, that large quantities of Egyptian-made and imported products go to Libya, and that about 800 Egyptian businessmen have visited Libya and about 1,500 Libyan businessmen visited Egypt to promote trade between the two countries.

In light of this, the U.S. State Department has asked the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to check on the extent of the Egyptian Government's adherence to the economic sanctions against Libya and to file a weekly report on the matter.

Minister on War Production, Chemical Weapons

NC1201133994 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 6

[Interview with Major General Engineer Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, minister of state for war production, by Jamal Kamal; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Kamal] Why is there interest in developing and enhancing the war industry when Egypt, the region, and the world are embarking on a new stage of peace in which certain restrictions are being imposed to control armaments and producing countries that monopolize on weapons production are calling for restrictions on the transfer of arms production technology?

[Al-Ghamrawi] I have been asked these questions many times, even by people working in war production. I always answered with another question: Why should the Armed Forces be maintained and why should there be a constant call for developing and upgrading these forces?

If peace is the goal a state seeks to achieve and maintain to curb political and military tension and therefore provide more favorable conditions for best use of its resources to enhance the state's strength and enable it to continue its march toward progress, there must be a power to protect that peace. A general rule in the military, though, says that if you want peace you should be ready for war. Whoever

advocates peace and tries to protect it through his own weakness would be signing his own death warrant. It is wrong to think that peace means doing away with or reducing the numbers of the armed forces because they are no longer needed for pursuing the state's national interests. The truth is that the lack of power makes the state a prey for ambitious persons and vulnerable to various risks at all times. This creates domestic instability and directly affects development plans. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] But there are international calls to control armaments and curb the expansion of war production. Steps have actually been taken to prevent the export of arms production technology.

[Al-Ghamrawi] What is being said about controlling armaments or curbing expansion in military production is meant to make the various forms of war production exclusive to a group of states that monopolize it and control its prices.

The best evidence of this can be found in the fact that the major states' arms exports to the Third World in two years alone exceeded arms exports for 10 years. Besides, what does armament control have to do with developing your military industry, if your goal is to satisfy the needs of your Armed Forces and develop the equipment they already have? Developing the military industry does not mean exporting it or trading in it in a way that undermines stability. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] What is the major goal behind the development of the Egyptian military industry?

[Al-Ghamrawi] The goal is to enhance the ties between the Ministry of War Production and the Ministry of Defense, which is the main user of military products. In other words, we want to provide for the needs of the Armed Forces and to link our plan for production to the Armed Forces' armament plan. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] How can Egyptian military production be developed while there are restrictions on the transfer of arms production technology?

[Al-Ghamrawi] This is an important issue that forms a large part of the new development strategy. This strategy is based on a new reading of the actual situation and on developing a new vision to cope with that situation.

Egypt's moderate policy and its belief in mutual interests and interrelation has helped it acquire many technologies without fear of abusing them. Egypt succeeded in acquiring the latest technologies from the United States, France, and some East European states. Our moderation provides us with the needed grounds to obtain what we want.

As for our vision, it is based on two main factors:

1. To utilize what we already have.

2. To develop and update what we already have and conduct further research. [passage omitted]

[Kamal] What are the markets for Egyptian weapons under the current international competition?

[Al-Ghamrawi] The Arab and African states. I think that with some political effort we can find the best marketing formula so that the revenue can be spent on developing the weapons.

[Kamal] Do you think it is possible in the current situation in the Arab world to establish an Arab military industry?

[Al-Ghamrawi] I still believe that Arab states have many capabilities to cooperate in military industry without fear. We are capable of entering the sphere of military production with products that meet international levels.

[Kamal] Why do foreign papers attack the M-1 tank factory every now and then?

[Al-Ghamrawi] The Egyptian factory for the production and repair of armored vehicles—which began with the production of the U.S. M-1 tank—was a considerable addition to the power of Egyptian military production. It is one of the most modern military factories built in the world recently. Military industries are always questioned and are subjected to attacks every now and then. It seems that Egypt's and its workers' success in building the factory and absorbing the tank manufacturing technology, the peak of military technologies, frightens some people. But we will go on with the project according to plan.

[Kamal] But the project will be completed in 1997. Does this mean that the production license will be withdrawn and the factory closed?

[Al-Ghamrawi] There is no such thing as withdrawing a production license. The hypothetical shelf life of the tank is 20 to 25 years. Tanks in general need overhauls, maintenance, and development. The M-1 tank we are manufacturing is only a developed version of the M-60-A-3. There is also the M-1-A-2. Moreover, can anyone take back from you the technology you have learned?

We started the overhauling of the M-60-A-3 in the factory and we will start the overhauling of the M-1. We are studying how to meet new demands. A joint study is under way with the Armed Forces to select an armored combat vehicle to be manufactured in the factory.

[Kamal] Since the 122-mm and 130-mm guns were manufactured, the Egyptian artillery factory has not produced new pieces of artillery. Why?

[Al-Ghamrawi] We obtained a license to manufacture the 120-mm barrel of the M-1 tank in the artillery factory. This is one of the latest technologies in the world and it is different from that of ordinary artillery. There is also a project to produce the strategic steel needed for the artillery industry in the factory.

[Kamal] Some foreign newspapers once in a while report that Egypt is producing chemical weapons.

[Al-Ghamrawi] We have an established and unchanging principle: We do not manufacture any type of chemical

weapons. We only manufacture the equipment needed to protect ourselves against these weapons.

[Kamal] Some people talk about the need to privatize military production.

[Al-Ghamrawi] Privatizing the war industry is out of the question. Like the Armed Forces, war production is one of the elements of Egyptian power and national security. If it is not possible to buy security from any state, then war production cannot be sold. Privatization is unsuitable for war production. [passage omitted]

'Source' Denies Libya Handed Over Terrorists

NC1301074094 Cairo MENA in English 2200 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, Jan 12 (MENA)—A security source today denied a newspaper report on Libya's arresting three terrorists while passing through al-Sallum check point, northwest of Egypt, and handing them over to security bodies.

The source called the report Bs groundless.

Muslim Brotherhood Official on 'Tyrannical Regimes'

NC1301071494 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Jan 94 p 5

[Article by Mustafa Mashhur]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Muslims in some of our Arab and Islamic countries have been afflicted with tyrannical regimes that control the people's fate in varying degrees. Some regimes permit relative, limited, freedom, others ban political parties, and others place restrictions and obstacles in the way of parties getting permission to operate. They allow parties that have no popular base and don't allow those that have a large popular base so that they can say they are applying democracy and allowing a multitude of parties. Some regimes interfere with legislative elections in favor of the ruling party. Some regimes might also appoint legislative councils. Some regimes control the official media—radio, television, newspapers, and magazines—and spend the people's money on them so that they will serve as their instruments. They draft laws restricting the freedom to publish newspapers. They also draft emergency laws restricting public freedom and prompting youths to go underground and violate the law. Such activity is met with counterviolence, which does not help solve the problem; it escalates it. We see this clearly in Algeria and Egypt. Indiscriminate arrests also help to increase the number of rebels and the bloodshed on both sides.

Such cases of instability prevent an atmosphere of security for achieving reform and development from being established. They also provide the opportunity to outside forces to carry out activities and attribute them to citizens, because the continuing instability serves the interest of these foreign forces.

Our advice to such regimes—if they are sincere in seeking their countries' good—is to free up public liberties, such as the freedom to form parties, the freedom of the press, and the freedom to hold conferences and symposiums. These regimes must ensure the honesty of elections so that a government representing the majority of the people can be formed and the freely elected state institutions can carry out their responsibilities and duties to achieve a good and honorable life for their peoples and solve every problem and crisis. Free elections separate the good from the bad.

Much argument has raged about the dialogue, its motives, who should participate in it, the issues it should deal with, the issues that should take priority, and the conclusion that should be reached. Much doubt has been cast on the seriousness of the dialogue. The situation in society is worsening, reaching a point where it is almost intolerable. A solution must be found. There are many political, economic, security, and foreign problems and they must not remain unsolved. The ruling regime was supposed to solve them, but it couldn't, because it has lost the people's confidence. If the dialogue is meant to involve the people in finding sound solutions to these problems, the correct and natural approach is to give the people their freedom and political rights first, such as the freedom to form parties, freedom of the press, and free and honest elections of legislative assemblies that can fulfill their responsibilities in solving these problems.

But if the dialogue's purpose is for the participants to come out with something like a charter that will bind the people, this is wrong, because the interlocutors are not elected by the people in free and honest elections that would have the people abide by what is achieved.

The Muslim Brotherhood wholeheartedly wishes that stability and reform might be achieved in all state sectors and that all problems will be solved concretely. We hope the time will come when everyone will be convinced that Islam is the solution, because it is characterized by perfection, as it comes from God, who is perfect. God's word is the truth and he guides us on our way.

Asyut Security Leaders Warn Against Storming Mosques

NC1301085994 Cairo AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic 6 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Huraydi Muhammad]

[Text] Security leaders in Asyut have warned against continuing the State Security Investigation Department's policy of storming the mosques of the Islamic Group in the Asyut Governorate. Group members respond by retaliating against the police. The latest such action was the assassination of Interior Ministry inspector Colonel Muhammad Tu'aymah, who was accused by the Islamic Group leaders of being responsible for storming the al-Rahmah mosque, the group stronghold in Asyut city.

The security leaders called for dialogue with the leaders of the Islamic Group to implement a previous agreement between the security services and the group not to carry out incidents in Asyut in return for leaving the Islamic Group to exercise its mission inside al-Rahmah mosque.

Sources have affirmed that none of those accused of belonging to the military wing of the Islamic Group have entered the mosque.

The security leaders expect attacks on policemen and the assassination of police officers to continue as long as the al-Rahmah mosque remains under police control. The security forces have placed a strong guard around particular security leaders, including Brigadier General Sa'id Thabit Abu-al-Ma'ali. Additional measures have been adopted to guard Major General Majdi al-Basyuni, director of the Asyut Security Department. His residence near the Asyut sports club is heavily guarded and the house's street wall has been made higher.

Accusations are being exchanged between the security services and the political and popular leaders over responsibility for the deteriorating situation in Asyut city. The have all emphasized the security services' failure to deal with things.

Eritrean Ambassador Delivers Message, Comments

NC1301104794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0947 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Eritrean leader Isaias Afewerki on bilateral relations and the confrontation with terrorists who recently crossed Eritrea's border.

Eritrean Ambassador in Cairo Muhammad 'Ali 'Amr made a statement after a meeting with President Mubarak today. He added that he informed President Mubarak of President Afewerki's desire for cooperation in various fields.

He said that he also informed President Mubarak, in his capacity as head of the largest country in the region and as chairman of the OAU, of Eritrea's wish to ward off the dangers it is facing from extremist terrorist activities near its border that have been proven to have been launched from a certain country.

Eritrea was recently the target of a terrorist operation.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Backs Administrative Reorganization

EA1201163394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the republic, this morning addressed at the Friendship Hall the consultative meeting held by the Federal Rule Office for leaders of the executive organ, the Armed Forces, and the police forces for the purpose of studying the options submitted by the higher committee for the redivision of states.

The president of the republic affirmed in his address the importance of the redivision at this very time since it involves the curtailment of the administrative shadow [as heard], the provision of more federalism, and the handing over of power to the masses. He denied that the financial cost of the project or the distribution of the human cadre was an obstacle preventing the implementation of the redivision recommendations, pointing out in this respect the success of the experiment on the redivision of states. [passage omitted]

Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister in the Federal Rule Office and rapporteur of the committee, presented a comprehensive explanation at the beginning of the meeting, supported by maps detailing the options arrived at by the committee. He explained that the number of states in Sudan will rise to 25, by dividing each state into three states, with the exception of the northern state which it was decided will be divided into two states only; whereas the committee recommended the division of the central state into four states. It also decided to keep Khartoum state as it is—one state.

Deputy Speaker To Cooperate With Opposition

PM1301102094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Kamal Hamid, 'Umar al-Hasan, and Fatinah al-Dajani report: "Sudanese National Assembly Deputy Speaker Seeks Asylum in Britain"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, London—Aldo Ajo, deputy speaker of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly (appointed parliament), announced in London yesterday his decision to resign from his post, because of his inability to influence his government's policy to solve the country's problems, especially with regard to the establishment of peace in the south.

He stated that he has decided to cooperate with the Sudanese opposition to topple President 'Umar al-Bashir's regime.

Clashes have broken out once again in the south between government forces and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, while the statements made by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference [and leader of the National Islamic Front], about a dialogue being conducted between the authorities and the parties inside and outside the country has provoked violent reactions from the government.

At a news conference in London, Ajo said that he had applied for political asylum in Britain. He stated that he left Khartoum for Cairo on 1 December on 30-day leave with his family, them moved on 15 December to London, where he decided to announce his resignation and seek asylum. He declined to say whether he had decided on his resignation and escape from Sudan before or after his visit to London.

He stressed that he had agreed to join the government after the successful military coup led by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir four years ago in the hope of influencing the government's policy "in order to eliminate the tension

between north and south and to establish peace in the south. But I was wrong, as this government does not want peace."

He added that he had decided to cooperate with the Sudanese opposition in all its tendencies and groups, stressing that "only force is capable of removing the Sudanese regime, which is not concerned about citizens' death." He attacked the regime's unseriousness in solving the south problem and establishing party pluralism. He also spoke about "the regime's scheme to Islamize the south." He cited constitutional decree No. 7 endorsed by the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation on the eve of its dissolution.

He went on: "The regime's supporters gather southern children from the refugee camps to which they fled in Khartoum, southern Darfur, southern Kordofan, and southern towns like Juba and Malakal, which are all under government control. They take the children to secret camps, where they force them to join religious schools and military training centers in north Sudan to prepare them to fight against the south." "I believe that a true and lasting peace is possible if the the people of the south are allowed to exercise their right to self-determination through a referendum to determine their political future."

Meanwhile, al-Turabi's statements about a dialogue being conducted with the Sudanese parties inside and outside the country have provoked violent reactions from the government.

Official sources emphasized to AL-HAYAH yesterday that the government, which dissolved the parties, cannot conduct a reconciliation with them. "But if contacts take place, they will be with figures in isolation from their parties." [passage omitted]

Assembly Revokes Ajo's Membership

EA1201161594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] today held a session under the chairmanship of Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the assembly. The membership affairs committee issued a decision revoking the membership of the one called Aldo Ajo Deng [deputy speaker of the TNA] from the assembly because of his recent conduct.

The decision was put before the assembly. It was debated in all its dimensions. After the debate, the assembly unanimously approved the decision to revoke the membership of the one called Aldo Ajo Deng. The assembly will submit a recommendation in this respect to the president of the Republic.

On the other hand, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, affirmed that the motives that led to the one called Aldo Ajo Deng joining the opposition ranks were not religious motives as he alleged, nor were they related to discrimination between the north and the south, which Aldo Ajo Deng alleged.

Kuwait

Minister Stresses Commitment to Defense Budget

LD1201223394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1513 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Jan—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah stressed his commitment to the defense-bolstering budget on which a report had been prepared by the joint committee composed of the interior and defense and foreign affairs committees, to be submitted to the finance committee.

In a statement to KUNA here today, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said: Our commitment to the defense-bolstering budget stems from the public interest.

On his part, 'Abbas Munawir, chairman of the interior and defense committee, said that the joint committee had approved the defense-bolstering budget.

He indicated that the final decision regarding this matter lay with the National Assembly after the finance committee discusses the issue. Munawir revealed that the Defense Ministry had spent around 1.6 billion dinars out of the total budget, which amounts to 3.5 billion dinars.

Munawir said that four deputies had voted for the budget while three voted against it, and one abstained; the overall result was, therefore, approval.

In another development, Munawir said that the committee had agreed to take into consideration the voluntary period served by those who joined the army during the treacherous Iraqi occupation and considered it as a part of the service.

He added that the committee had discussed the possibility of promoting military personnel who are holders of a general certificate of secondary education or higher; Munawir indicated that the head of the military judiciary body had said that that system had been in force for a long time.

Yemen

Efforts To Secure Release of Hostages Continue

PM1301105694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "Efforts To Release Experts Held by Yemeni Tribe Stumble"]

[Text] Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni tribal sources have confirmed that the mediation efforts for the release of the experts held by one of the Yemeni tribes in the area of Khawlan for the past 10 days are continuing.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, one of the mediators, a tribal chief, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The six hostages and their helicopter were yesterday evening still being held by the Shudayq tribe some 110 km from Sanaa but various mediations are under way by tribal chiefs, parliamentarians, and officers to persuade the Shudayq tribes to release the hostages, who include a British expert, the Canadian pilot, and four Yemenis. The tribes, however, are requesting that the state provide public services for their region such as completion of the building of schools, inclusion of their region in the electricity network plan, and introduction of drinking water projects, medical services, and other projects.

Sources have denied yesterday's reports about the release of the hostages. They said that Shaykh Muhammad Yayha al-Ruwayshan, from Khawlan, initiated a mediation the day before yesterday to persuade the Shudayq tribe to release the hostages but the tribe holding the experts—employees of the U.S. company Hunt, which operates the Ma'rib oilfields area—demanded definite guarantees that the state would grant and seek to fulfill its demands. These demands include five to 10 new Landrovers as security in return for the release of the detainees and their plane, provided these vehicles come from the state, not the mediators.

In a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Shaykh 'Ali al-Qayri, who is one of the mediators, said that the mediators had contacted the official authorities in Sanaa to convey the kidnappers' demands and secure guarantees for the release of the hostages, but the authorities have so far refused to grant the kidnappers' demands and have been looking for ways of putting an end to these kinds of pressures, which have recently been frequent, and of putting an end to the kidnapping of foreign experts for use as a means of pressure on the official authorities.

He said that a number of senior officials told the mediators that the state was willing to discuss all legitimate demands with these people but outside the framework of pressure through the abduction of foreigners, a method which undermines Yemen's reputation in the world.

The helicopter and the six experts were kidnapped on the morning of the Monday before last in the area of al-Yamaniyah in Khawlan as the experts, including a Hunt company security official, were about to disarm a mine planted near the pipeline passing through that area.

According to press reports, the six experts are being well treated and have not been denied any requests because they themselves are not the target but the means used to put pressure on the official authorities and, therefore, are well taken care of.

Salih Offers To Quit 'If That Is the Problem'

JN1201210994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today paid a visit to the Ibb Governorate where he was received by the acting governor, officials, leading figures, representatives of political parties and organizations, tribal chiefs, and a large crowd of citizens.

Immediately upon arrival in Ibb, Salih met in the governorate's center with the brother officials in the governorate, the ulema, leading figures, and representatives of

the political parties and organizations as well as mass organizations in the governorate.

In the meeting, Salih noted that his visit to Ibb this time differs from his previous visit because it comes amid this regrettable crisis. He said: I highly appreciate what I heard today from the orators and poets whose sincere speeches came from their hearts, reflecting the pain of our people because of this crisis which has been going on since 19 August 1993. We were expecting to begin a new year and to leave behind the previous year with all its tragedies and its political, social, and economic mistakes, and turn over a new leaf. The crisis is not among the united Yemeni people but is a crisis of confidence among certain leaderships that pursue their own interests to the detriment of public interests. There are some who speak of the masses and their problems while at the same time trying to realize personal gains. I say that we must uphold the interests of the homeland and rise above the interests of the rulers and officials in all centers and departments and on all levels.

The president said: Unity was realized because of the struggle by all the Yemenis. It is not just a gain for Yemen but a gain for the entire Arab nation. Unity has brought together the one Yemeni family. We had hoped that some of our colleagues and comrades in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership would be logical and reasonable and would let dialogue prevail rather than allowing other options to prevail. We hope that the Dialogue Committee will carry out its responsibility and speedily end its discussion of the problems and points on its agenda in order to enable the country to come out of the current impasse instead of this delay and waste of time. The conditions in the country are getting worse and the citizens conditions are deteriorating. There is a plan to create unrest among the citizens and to instigate riots and sabotage similar to what happened on 9 and 10 December 1992. There are those who are planning for the return to the old partition system, which we buried on 22 May 1990.

Salih said: All noble and sincere voices must be raised and all the forces, organizations, and political parties must oppose those who call for returning to the past. They must say: No to partition, yes to unity and peaceful dialogue, yes to security, stability, and peace.

Salih said: We must remember our people's suffering during the partition, especially in this governorate, Ibb, which suffered so much from the afflictions of partition. As officials, we must remember the suffering of our people. We must remember the poor and the powerless who are suffering because of the rise in prices as a result of the expanding and escalating crisis. The voice of right must be raised to tell the wrongdoer: You have erred. The problem is not the problem of 'Ali ['Abdallah Salih] and 'Ali [Salim al-Bid] but is connected with the responsibility of those who do not want our people to come out of this crisis, this affliction.

We have made concessions and given our consent to all the proposed solutions and showed ourselves to be keen on finding a quick way out of this crisis, whose origins our people know full well—the people behind it, and those who stand to gain from it.

We have consented to all the points and demands made by our partners—the YSP—and have responded to the ulema's call to put things right. If I knew that any concessions on my part would keep my country and its unity from going down a hazardous and slippery road I would do it. The one thing that remains for me to do is to offer to resign my post as head of state—something I am prepared to do for the sake of keeping the unity intact. If that is the problem, let brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid or the YSP come forward.

The chairman of the Presidential Council reviewed numerous issues and developments on the national scene, indicating that he intimated his approval of the system of local government and the enactment of legislation to regulate it so as to ensure decentralization and curb centralization. But the provincial system demanded by some amounts to a scheme to carve the country into mini-states and sultanates. We have united the Yemeni family and we should rally it together. So, how can we accept taking steps backward? We will not be responsible for sacrificing unity and will not allow infighting. We stand for responsible and objective dialogue. He pointed to certain erroneous practices that have been detrimental to unity and to the problems that have befallen the interim period. From this place, I call on brothers of the YSP to engage in dialogue, notwithstanding all the statements made against the president by some of its officials. I am an understanding person. To all of them I now say: May God forgive you. Let us turn over a new leaf and rise above our personal concerns, and work for the sake of our people's and country's supreme interests. I also call on the population of the Ibb Governorate and all our countrymen to help us maintain security, stability, peace, and unity.

Meanwhile, speeches made at the meeting expressed our people's anxiety over the political crisis our country is going through and the deep negative impact it has had on the citizens' economic, social, and psychological well-being. The speakers urged the political leadership to work to find quick solutions to this crisis, which is beginning to pose a threat to the homeland and the unity of the people who have made generous sacrifices for its sake. They emphasized that the Yemeni masses, who have been unstinting in their sacrifices for the sake of unity, are willing to make further sacrifices to preserve the homeland's unity and defend the gains of the revolution. The speakers urged the political leadership to be receptive to the call of the masses, submit to reason and the country's supreme interests, get together to work out a solution to this crisis, and address its repercussions.

The meeting also heard a statement issued by the governorate's population, which urged a reactivation of the government's various institutions so that they may discharge their national duties free of party, regional, personal, or confessional affiliations. They called for all violators of the duties and functions of public office to be called to account.

President Said Willing To Meet al-Bid in Aden

JN1301104094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0942 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 13 Jan (INA)—Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has said he intends to go to Aden, in the south of Yemen, to meet with Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who has been staying in Aden since 19 August 1993.

In press statements aired by the Yemeni Television last night, Salih said he would go to Aden, Hadramawt, or al-Dali' out of his concern to find quick solutions to the country's crisis, which is burdening the Yemeni people.

In his statements, the Yemeni president accused for the first time some leaders of the Yemeni Socialist Party, under Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, of not wanting to resort to logic and reason to overcome the crisis in the country. He said: I have realized that some of the demands are impossible and hide behind them a scheme, which exercises on the ground an undeclared secession. [passage omitted]

Dialogue Committee Sets Deadline for Accord

JN1201205594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 94

["Text" of statement issued by the Political Forces Dialogue Committee on 12 January; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Political Forces Dialogue Committee had earlier set 10 January 1994 as the deadline for completing the dialogue document, which must enshrine the bases for building the state and addressing the problems plaguing the homeland and its citizens, and which must also be used as a guide to defuse the ongoing crisis. The concern to reconcile the views of all participants made it impossible to reach agreement on this document on time. This prompted some forces taking part in the dialogue to say that they would not proceed with the dialogue unless the committee issues a statement, explaining the reasons and setting another deadline for completion of the document.

The Dialogue Committee favorably viewed a host of proposals submitted by the opposition bloc. Hence, the Dialogue Committee regrets the delay, which was not under the participants' control, and announces that 18 January 1994 shall be the last deadline for agreement on the draft document in preparation for its endorsement by the concerned parties. The political forces engaged in the dialogue pledge to our people's masses to do their utmost to complete the agreement document. It is God whose satisfaction and guidance we pray for.

Opposition Accuses Coalition of Obstructing Talks

PM1301102694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 94 pp1, 4

[Lutfi Shataran report from Aden and unattributed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT report from Sanaa: "Opposition Withdraws From Dialogue Committee and Condemns Positions of General People's Congress and Reform Grouping"]

[Excerpt] Representatives of the ruling coalition parties in the Dialogue Committee for resolving the Yemeni political crisis resumed their meetings yesterday afternoon at the home of Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, prime minister and member of the Political Bureau of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], in Aden, in the absence of representatives of the opposition's National Bloc who boycotted the committee's work and remained at the Aden Hotel where they have been staying since the beginning of this month while participating in the committee's meetings. They announced their withdrawal the night before last, saying that the dialogue had reached a dead end because of differences between the ruling coalition parties (the General People's Congress [GPC], the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG], and the YSP) over local government, election methods, and formation of a shura council.

A statement issued by the Yemeni opposition said that these differences developed into exchanges of accusations, escalated by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's speech the day before yesterday in Ta'izz, over the aims some ruling coalition parties hoped to achieve through the meeting of the Yemeni Ulema Society at the Mu'adh Bin-Jabal Mosque in al-Jund, the disregard for the Dialogue Committee's efforts, and the House of Representatives decision to ask the prime minister and the ministers to withdraw from the Dialogue Committee and return to their posts to discharge their duties as members of the government.

In his Ta'izz speech, the Yemeni president accused the YSP of "seeking secession" with funds from certain Arab states. In reply, the YSP issued a statement expressing interest in preserving Yemeni unity and in continuing efforts to build a modern state. It condemned the "lies and abuse" aimed at it. It expressed confidence that the Arab states mentioned in the speech were eager "to establish cordial relations based on mutual respect, sovereignty, fraternal cooperation, and good neighborliness" with Yemen.

The opposition's statement accused the ruling parties of serving their own interests, not the people's interests. It added that "the opposition submitted reasonable papers and serious proposals for ending the crisis and laying the foundations for stability in the country but the ruling parties reacted to the document with reservations, making it impossible to continue the dialogue." That, it said, "convinced the opposition's National Bloc parties that the dialogue was not serious and was futile, and this made them withdraw from arguments which benefit nobody in these exceptional circumstances."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, planning minister and member of the GPC Political Bureau, said in reply that "they should let their conscience be the judge as to who obstructed the dialogue." He emphasized that the GPC did not postpone a single session or reject any proposal made during the committee's work since 8 November.

'Abd-al-Salam al-'Ansi, member of the GPC Political Bureau and head of its General Department, has described the opposition's withdrawal and statement as "some kind of political upstaging" and accused the YSP of "using them [the opposition] to abort the dialogue."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that "the real identity of the opposition is now clear. It is just the other face of the YSP. It hastily withdrew for reasons of political gain and media blackmail." [passage omitted]

Kurdish Official Condemns PKK 'Violence'

NC1201192494 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1700 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The increase in acts of terror in settlements close to the Iraqi border again drew everyone's attention to northern Iraq. A group from Kanal-6 visited northern Iraq and met the Kurdish leaders of the problematic region.

We are presenting our colleague Kursat Hakyolu's impressions from northern Iraq with the pictures taken by cameraman Numan Tunc Inal.

[Begin recording] [Hakyolu] While the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party] terrorism escalated on the Turkish side of the Turkish-Iraqi border, the position taken by the Kurdish groups on the other side of the border against the PKK is somehow not becoming clearer. Steps taken by the northern Iraqi Kurds toward the formation of a state are being debated in international forums. In the meantime, Kurdish groups are feuding with each other. The clashes between the Kurdistan Islamic Front and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Jalal Talabani have just ended. It is also being reported that there is disagreement between Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, leader of Democratic Party of Kurdistan, on stances to be adopted toward the PKK.

Our meeting with the north Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Rasul Kusret took place while these important developments were taking place in the region.

Barzani had once again declared the PKK a terrorist organization, whereas Talabani made ø statement. This was our first question to Prime Minister Kusret, who is from Talabani's PUK.

[Kusret in Arabic with superimposed Turkish translation by an off-screen reporter] We reject every sort of violence, no matter where it comes from. If violence is coming from the PKK, we reject that too. We condemn all sorts of violence.

[Kusret continues in Arabic in the background with Hakyolu providing a summary of his views] Rejecting reports that the PKK is infiltrating Turkey from Iraq, Kusret said that they are controlling the borders and are not allowing the PKK through. Nevertheless, he added that they need Turkey's support and that this problem could be completely solved through cooperation with Ankara. [end recording]

PUK Reportedly Attacks Naqshbandi Group

LD1301031594 Tehran IRNA in English 2101 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Piranshahr, West Azarbaijan, Jan. 12, IRNA—Members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) operating in Iraq's Kurdistan last Monday attacked a military base of a Naqshbandi group in Haj Omran, northeast of Iraq, an Iraqi Kurd said here today.

The same source told IRNA here that right before the attack the group's leader Sheikh Mostafa Naqshbandi was entertaining PUK members. The source added that PUK members confiscated the arms at the disposal of the Naqshbandi group.

Although the PUK has denied any involvement in the incident, sources close to Jalal Talebani have disclosed that the Naqshbandi group was attacked because the group was an Islamic one.

The self-styled parliament of the Iraqi Kurdistan had passed a law earlier for public disarmament. Observers feel that the incident is a prelude to new inter-group clashes.

Jordanian Officials Meet With Prime Minister

JN1201182594 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has received Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Walid Mithqal 'Asfur.

The prime minister praised the solidarity demonstrated by fraternal Jordan—its people and government—with the Iraqi people during their confrontation of the 30-state aggression and the unfair embargo. He underscored the depth and strength of fraternal ties between the two fraternal countries. He also reaffirmed Iraq's readiness to promote these ties in various spheres.

The prime minister said that Arab solidarity, upholding the nation's principles, strengthening inter-Arab ties, and promoting economic cooperation are the way to confront the imperialist onslaught targeting the Arab nation. He indicated that the transient circumstances being experienced by Iraq are about to end, thanks to the resolve and determination of the Iraqi people under leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

For his part, Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Walid Mithqal 'Asfur expressed the Jordanian people's solidarity with the Iraqi people, as well as their strong condemnation of the continued enforcement of the unfair embargo against the Iraqi people. He also underlined the strength of the fraternal bilateral ties of cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad, Cabinet Secretary Hamid Salih al-Rawi, and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by Industry Minister

JN1201195194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, has received Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Walid Mithqal 'Asfur.

During the meeting, they discussed industrial and economic cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as the means to promote the exchange of expertise and joint action between them.

Meet With Trade Minister

JN1301101894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0846 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih last night met with Walid Mithqal 'Asfur, Jordan's energy and mineral resources minister, and his delegation. They discussed various aspects of cooperation between Iraq and Jordan and means to improve them to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples in various fields.

French Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

JN1301102094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—A French parliamentary delegation, headed by Sergi Mathew [name as received], member of the French Senate and president of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society, last night arrived in Baghdad at the invitation of the country's Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Council.

During the visit, the French parliamentary delegation will hold talks with several officials concerning relations between Iraq and France and will review the negative consequences left by the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Aircraft Violations 7-9 Jan Protested

JN1301115994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the U.S., British, and French aircraft in their violations of the Iraqi airspace which pose a grave threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter sent yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent envoy said the U.S., British, and French aircraft on 7, 8, and 9 January continued to violate the Iraqi airspace and conducted 101 hostile sorties out of bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The Iraqi envoy enclosed a list detailing these violations and asked that the letter be distributed to the Arab League member states.

Soaring Prices Blamed on Lack of 'Responsibility'

JN1201200994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 9 Jan 94 p 12

["Above the Redline" column by National Assembly member Fawzi al-Mashhadani: "Prices of the State and Mixed Sectors' Products"]

[Text] It seems that the soaring prices fever has not only affected the private sector's products, but also the state and mixed sectors' prices. If we consider the phenomenon carefully, we cannot attribute it to the economic blockade, which has recently been viewed as a source of all problems, including the soaring prices phenomenon. Most companies and establishments are still using their assets of the raw materials that were stored before the economic blockade, as well as some alternatives, in order to perpetuate the production process.

At the same time, we know that the unjust economic blockade has halted the import of raw and supplementary materials. Therefore, the surge in the prices of these establishments' products cannot be attributed to the increase in costs. Aside from increases in the workers' wages, no change occurred in the framework of the cost. Therefore, the level of costs in these establishments is still reasonable because the elements of the cost, except the wages, have not changed to justify the rise in prices by more than three to five times the prices a year ago.

If we review these prices, we will find, for example, that the prices of the products of the State Enterprise for Leather Industry have risen by more than five times. A pair of men's shoes that were sold for 50 to 70 dinars in 1992 were sold for 185 to 400 dinars in 1993. This also applies to all the items this state enterprise produces. The same is also true of textile companies and electrical industries. However, the rise in the prices of the mixed sector's products was much more than that of the state sector. The prices of the Light Industries Company's products have increased up to 4,500 to 6,000 dinars. [sentence as published] Similarly, the prices of the products of the Electronics Industries Company, the dyes industry, the alcoholic drinks industry, and other mixed sector establishments have also risen.

Scientifically speaking, the rise in these prices can be attributed to the policy of increasing the profits of the project instead of the establishment's production capacity, or that this phenomenon has nothing to do with economic laws, which seek to increase the net income by using the means of production in the best way, working to introduce scientific inventions in the production process, raising the level of production, or reducing the costs to the lowest level possible in order to raise the margin of profit to a reasonable level in harmony with the nature and trends of prices in the market of commodities and industry.

This shows that these establishments have abandoned their responsibility, as well as the social duty required from economic and production units, instead of reflecting their eagerness to improve the level of performance. This can be interpreted by a defect in the economic behavior. These establishments behave like the private sector traders, who define their prices in light of foreign currency exchange rates in the parallel market. This behavior has harmed price levels and led to higher inflation rates. Therefore, it can be considered as part of a wrong behavior, which will damage the economy by fixing unrealistic prices that do not reflect the economic situation and production relations.

During a meeting with the Council of Ministers, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, instructed that the state enterprises depend on the true cost rather than the standard cost, search for opportunities to reduce the costs, and adopt austerity measures to limit spending. The concerned industrial establishment is required to take these instructions seriously and not to adopt such a behavior to define the prices of their industrial products, just as the private sector does. This fever may also affect the fines imposed on citizens violating the instructions of Baghdad municipality and health and traffic rules.

State Sends Condolences on Death of Norway's Holst

TA1301134894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] The prime minister and the foreign minister have sent their condolences to the family of Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, who died of a stroke today.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the State of Israel will remember Minister Holst as the man who was successful in reducing the distance between two adversaries, in helping them to overcome a agelong enmity, and in building the foundation of peace in the Middle East. His contribution to the struggle for peace will serve us as a beacon in our future effort to end all wars.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that Minister Holst's compelling contribution to the peace process in our region is indisputable.

Peres on Expectations of Clinton-al-Asad Summit

TA1301074394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0503 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Yisra'el Segal—live]

[Excerpt] [Segal] Do you have any expectations or fears about the upcoming meeting between Clinton and al-Asad?

[Peres] I think we should approach the matter with an open mind. It makes no sense to engage in speculations, when we will know exactly what happened there in another three or four days. My impression is that a change has occurred in Syria. It would be wrong to say that nothing has happened or to compare the current situation to the past. The main question is whether al-Asad has indeed drawn all the conclusions from the change he knows has taken place and the change he has undergone. We will have to wait until next Sunday [16 January] or Monday to find out, because President al-Asad is obviously holding his cards very close to his chest.

[Segal] What are the expectations from Israel's point of view? Do we expect al-Asad to declare that he wants full normalization? He is making this conditional on a full withdrawal.

[Peres] We expect several things which, taken together, form a process of peace. The first concerns the nature of the negotiations. They cannot be confined to one narrow track strewn with microphones, which turns into a futile verbal confrontation. Negotiations must be open and broad, and should include higher levels and quieter channels so they can really take off from where they are now.

Second, he must seriously and fully address the question of peace. After all, we are being asked tangible things, and what they are offering us has to do with rewards, declarations, and atmosphere. Furthermore, if even those offers are made sparingly, what is the point of the whole issue? In this context, al-Sadat realized that he must first go for full peace, including embassies....

[Segal, interrupting] Mr. Peres, you mention al-Sadat. We [illegible] level meetings between leaders, between a U.S. President and President al-Asad, do not take place unless they are preceded by thorough and serious work in which the essence of the meeting is in fact assured.

[Peres] I do not agree with you; there is no such rule. Sometimes, the meeting itself is the main event, as Secretary of State Christopher put it. I am not all that sure that every summit meeting is prepared down to the last detail.

[Segal] Do we have any information about the issues al-Asad will raise?

[Peres] I do not think we can have such information, and I believe the Syrians themselves have no such information either. Syria is ruled by one man. He calls the shots, and he decides when to announce his decisions. Therefore, any speculation is just that. Things may turn out one way or another. Clearly, the Syrians have developed very high expectations of and with regard to the United States. The United States has so far treaded its way cautiously, because it does not want to raise unfounded expectations. Having said that, we will have to wait and see what happens in a few days.

I would like to say something of which I am certain: Israel truly wants peace with Syria. Basically, we do not want a wounded Middle East, not even in parts of it. We want to bring peace to the Jews and the Arabs and to stop all the wars and threats once and for all. We are absolutely determined and resolute on this issue. If we can reach peace with Syria, we will be very glad. [passage omitted]

[In a recorded interview with Peres by Itay Engel and Tamar Landau on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 13 January, Peres is asked whether Nabil Sha'th's proposal "to defer negotiations on disputed issues in order to make some progress" is acceptable to Israel. The foreign minister replies: "We are trying to make progress on a very broad front. There are two committees, not just one, and progress should be made on any issue in which progress is possible. I think Nabil Sha'th is wrong in thinking that the agreements or understandings reached in Cairo no longer exist; it is a mistake."]

Summit, Clinton-King Husayn Meeting Previewed

TA1301055094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] The bilateral peace talks in Washington will resume on the 24th of this month, with only some of the delegation heads taking part. This is according to an Israeli source speaking to reporters in the U.S. capital yesterday. Talks with Palestinians will not resume until the Taba talks are concluded, the source said.

Jordan's King Husayn is to meet with President Bill Clinton next week, a meeting considered no less important

than Clinton's upcoming summit with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, said the Israeli source.

The Israeli source in Washington says that Israel will not be satisfied with slogans on peace from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad when he meets U.S. President Clinton in Geneva. The source told Qol Yisra'el Jerusalem expects concrete steps, in particular on the issue of security arrangements.

Intelligence sources here in Israel believe the Syrians, for their part, have high hopes in advance of the summit. They say President al-Asad's entourage will include some 100 people, as compared to smaller teams that accompanied him when he met in the past with U.S. Presidents Bush and Carter.

Minister Discusses Peace, Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC1201171694 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Jan 94 p 5

[Interview with Shulamit Aloni, Israeli "Minister of sciences and communications," by Muhammad al-Hinnawi in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Hinnawi] The world is astonished, actually shocked, by the failure to agree on the start of the Israeli withdrawal and the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on 12 December. What are the reasons and what do you think is happening?

[Aloni] Let me stress at the beginning that this government has decided to do all it can for peace. This is our choice and the clock will never go backward. We are, indeed, ready to honor our commitments under the Gaza-Jericho first agreement. We want the Palestinians to lead and run their own lives in the self-rule territories. But the Palestinians and the world must know that Israel now is not speaking with one voice. We are divided. The government wants true peace, but it only represents one segment of the people. There are other segments who do not believe and do not want peace. They believe that God has given the sons of Israel this entire territory and that the Palestinians have no place among them. But thank God, they are not a majority. We are the majority, but their voice is louder. This is the kind of conflict we have in our society.

[Al-Hinnawi] Very well, but what is your and your party's position concerning this conflict?

[Aloni] Our policy is clear. I agree to give up all the territories occupied following the 1967 war. The Palestinians have a right to set up their own state in the West Bank and Gaza, but this is not the government's viewpoint, because it knows that the Israelis are living in fear. Some of the fears are justified and some are not. For 15 years, the previous Likud governments continued to emphasize to the people the need to not trust anyone and that this justifies the occupation. This is the reason why the extremists brand us as traitors and agents of the Arabs. We suffer from Israeli extremism the same way you suffer from Arab extremism.

[Al-Hinnawi] But aren't you concerned by the eroding support for the peace agreement with the Palestinians and the Likud's sweeping victory in the municipal elections, particularly since some of the constituencies have been Labor strongholds for decades?

[Aloni] Actually, I am not disturbed. The erosion you are referring to following the signing of the agreement is natural, particularly with the continued confrontations in the occupied territories. This week, support for the agreement started to return to what it was the day after the agreement was signed. There are 148 in favor and 146 against [not further explained]. I expect the number of supporters to increase in the coming weeks. As for the Likud's victory in the municipal elections, this has nothing to do with the agreement. Municipal elections are about individuals, not policies, and in these elections the Israeli voter gives his vote to the person he thinks will provide the best services to the city or the village he lives in.

[Al-Hinnawi] What do you think is the real problem behind the Israeli Government's insistence on controlling the crossing points between Egypt and Gaza and Jordan and Gaza? What is the reason for shrinking the Jericho area to be given to the Palestinians? Don't you see that this insistence on the part of the government will harm the chances of peace?

[Aloni] The fact is that the Israeli public now cannot agree to leave the question of borders outside Israel's control, because the time is not yet ripe for this. Confidence must be built first. In addition, the Declaration of Principles did not include any reference to these points. I understand Yasir 'Arafat's position. He wants to gain as much as he can for his people after all these difficult years. The Israeli Government is surprised every day by 'Arafat's increasing demands. The same is true for Jericho. Under the agreement, we agreed to hand over the city of Jericho and the camps around it to 'Arafat, but now he is demanding the Jordan Valley, although the agreement absolutely did not mention it. No one among the Israelis thought of abandoning the area north of the Dead Sea and up to the Damya bridge during this stage.

[Al-Hinnawi] Does your party hold that same view?

[Aloni] If it were up to me I would have immediately agreed to relinquish all the occupied Palestinian territories to the Palestinian people and let them establish their own state. But I am a member of the government and bound by their policy, although my views are well known. But this is what will happen eventually. Therefore I say to 'Arafat: Be patient just a little more. You have been patient for a long time and will not wait more than you already have. Let us proceed one step at a time. We have to be realistic and act according to the signed agreement.

[Al-Hinnawi] News reports, particularly those carried by REUTER, have said that Israel has presented to Egypt a map detailing the huge wealth hidden under the sands of Sinai, including the uranium used in making atomic bombs. As minister of sciences, what do you think of these reports?

[Aloni] Your report is correct, although it is not complete. We indeed presented this map to Egypt as a sign of the goodwill and confidence in relations between the two sides. What was not published was that we discovered that Egypt has a similar map and that it knows everything about Sinai's wealth.

[Al-Hinnawi] Reports say that Israel has actually reached a peace agreement with Jordan but it has not been announced as yet. What is the truth about these reports, and what is the latest on talks with Syria?

[Aloni] An initial agreement has indeed been reached with Jordan. There are no problems with Jordan. But King Husayn is waiting for progress in negotiations with Syria before he announces the agreement. As for Syria, I believe that we have reached common ground and that talks will resume very soon. We are willing to make everything possible to reach an agreement with Syria.

[Al-Hinnawi] What about the problem of settlements in Golan?

[Aloni] I admit it is a problem. It was caused by the fact that the previous Labor government allowed settlers to live in Golan. So, the government has made some commitments to the settlers. The situation is different in the West Bank settlements, which were built with the Likud's permission. But we will find a solution. We should not forget that when the Labor government permitted the building of settlements in the Golan, the international situation was totally different from what it is today. The Soviet Union was a superpower and it was furnishing Syria with weapons. The situation is different now and I believe that we will find a solution. I would like to tell Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that he has a great opportunity to go down in history as the leader who contributed to the establishment of peace in the region. Israel is prepared to relinquish Golan if al-Asad is willing to establish real peace.

[Al-Hinnawi] How do you envision regional cooperation after the establishment of peace, particularly since there has been much talk lately about a Middle East market?

[Aloni] I believe that the beginning should be something like the Benelux cooperation among Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg. Cooperation can start among Israel, Palestine, Jordan, and Syria. This can later be followed by cooperation involving the Middle East states similar to the European Common Market. I think that this will be the picture in the end. As minister of communications, it pleases me to say that there are telephone lines linking Israel with all Arab states. The citizen in any Arab state can pick up the phone and contact Israel directly. This was inconceivable just a few years ago. I believe that Egyptian diplomacy has played a great role in bringing views closer so that peace and prosperity can prevail in the region.

Ministry Denies Fatah Report of Prisoner Release

NC1201170294 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Jan 12 (AFP)—Israel will release 3,500 Palestinian prisoners when it reaches an agreement with the PLO on launching autonomy, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's faction claimed Wednesday [12 January].

But Israeli defence ministry spokesman 'Oded Ben-'Ami denied the report.

"Israel will free 3,500 detainees when the accord is signed and will release all the rest before July 13 provided those belonging to (anti-autonomy) factions pledge to stop the armed struggle," 'Arafat's Fatah said in a leaflet.

General elections are supposed to take place in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on July 13, according to the self-rule accord signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Washington four months ago.

But an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories has already been delayed one month.

About 11,000 Palestinians are still held in Israeli prisons according to international humanitarian organisations.

Israel released 101 Palestinians on January 7.

Military Court Extends al-Rantisi's Remand

TA1201194094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The Gaza Military Court today extended the remand of 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, the deportee spokesman who had been permitted to return to Israel. Al-Rantisi is accused of membership in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], a charge which he denies.

Crown Prince Addresses Economic Conference

JN1301103694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13-14 Jan 94 p 5

["Text" of speech delivered by Crown Prince Hasan at the conference on economic and business implications of the Arab-Israeli peace process, organized by the Middle East Economic Digest in London on 10 January]

[Text] Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honour to deliver the keynote address to the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) conference on the economics of peace in the Middle East. With so many distinguished thinkers on this subject gathered together today, I feel that we cannot but make significant progress in the understanding of this complex area. I would like to set the tone by presenting an approach that could help achieve a viable framework for the areas to be discussed in the three other sessions today: the future of the Palestinian economy, the reconstruction challenge, and financing the peace.

As all those involved with MEED are aware, the entire region has been shattered by decades of conflict. While the Middle East is potentially self-sustaining in every respect, the Arab-Israel conflict has left the economies of the region insular in orientation and stunted in development. Crippled by debt and the demands of massive military expenditure, not one of the countries of the region—including Israel—could at present claim to be self-supporting in any meaningful way. Only peace can redeem this state of affairs.

The Middle East peace process has weathered changes of administration in Israel and the United States; it has survived political and military crises, and its negotiations have come through periods of difficulty to provide fresh hope. If the process is currently encountering a number of technical obstacles, it has also demonstrated unprecedented resilience. Jordan believes that this opportunity to resolve the conflict cannot be missed. The no-war, no-peace stasis that holds us in its thrall has benefited none of the parties. The accumulation of weapons in the region, particularly since the second Gulf war, means that the consequences of a future war are unthinkable. Peace is therefore the only viable path, and we in Jordan are pledged to do all in our power to pursue that path.

The mutual recognition of the PLO and Israel last autumn was a significant breakthough in Arab-Israeli relations. The Conference to Support Middle East peace, held in Washington last October, provided guarantees of support and assistance from the international community to the Palestinians, to help translate the promise of peace into tangible reality. The Jordanian-Israeli common agenda was likewise a bold step on the road to peace. However, the substance of peace is infinitely more complex than its rhetoric.

Peace-making has entered a new phase which requires an extensive investment in detail and technicalities. Soundbite diplomacy is no substitute for substantive negotiation. Jordan is engaged in serious and substantive discussions with its neighbours, with the aim of delineating areas of future cooperation in all spheres.

We have just agreed with the Palestinians a cooperation agreement at the official bilateral level, at the private sector level, and at the Arab and international levels. We will explore the details of such fields as money and banking, trade, human resources development, tourism, investment promotion, taxation, health, agriculture, infrastructure: not the stuff of headlines, but the stuff of which true peace is made.

For despite the 1988 severance of administrative links, the geographic, historic and demographic ties between Jordan and Palestine endure.

Such factors lie behind our decision to reopen branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories and to encourage the Jordanian private sector to invest in the West Bank and Gaza: for these are designed to help the nascent Palestinian economy in its development.

On the Jordanian-Israeli track, the Jordanian-Israeli-American economic committee will provide a valuable forum to address all aspects of human resource development, trade, finance, economic and monetary policy between Jordan and Israel. We now look forward to discussing other substantive issues, such as water, boundaries and refugees, on the basis of international law.

It is possible that in the long term, an arrangement similar to that which exists between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg would give all parties the psychological and material sense of security that is vital to sustainable peace. Jordan's primary role in a Benelux-type arrangement would be to provide stability: a role for which it is well-qualified, having traditionally served as an island of moderation in an otherwise volatile region. In addition, Jordan's historic position at the crossroads of East and West, stretching back to antiquity, equips it well to be a window for the world on a new Middle East, one finally at peace.

However, the disparties and distortions created by the conflict must be eliminated if such arrangements are to enjoy lasting success. Peace must be forged between partners, and the relationship that exists between Israel and the occupied territories is not one of partnerhsip, but of hegemony. The Israeli occupation has destroyed the economies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing the development and expansion of Palestinian enterprise, and prohibiting free trade within the area. A recent World Bank study shows that in a "normal" situation, Israel would account for a fifth of the occupied territories' exports and a third of their imports; instead, 85 per cent of their trade is with Israel. Whatever the nature of the Palestinian entity agreed upon for the occupied territories, it would not serve the interests of any party for it to be subject to a single set of incentives.

Even under conditions of peace, the disparity between the Israeli economy and those of the other core parties to the conflict would demand appropriate measures to fashion a

balanced relationship in a graduated manner. The examples of Spain and Portugal within the EU bear consideration in this regard. This is particularly vital as the Israeli economy has many restrictive features and is heavily subsidised. Given a negotiated peace, the complete removal of these features on both sides would be possible; but at the moment, when Israeli limits on our export to the occupied territories closely resemble boycott provisions, talk of lifting the Arab embargo is premature.

A GATT-EU approach could be the best way to deal with the economic legacies of the conflict. Indeed, Jordan has decided to apply for membership of GATT; for we believe that in seeking to envolve a healthy trade and investment regime, the experience of other countries—such as the Zone Franche arrangements between Geneva and France—will be invaluable. The European Commission recently approved a communication on "Future Relations and Cooperation Between the Community and the Middle East," illustrating the importance of experience in other parts of the world. The communication stresses the need for a common regional vision as a basis for cooperation in the Middle East. It states:

"Partnership requres balanced economic development. If cooperation is to succeed it is essential to reduce excessive disparties in income levels between potential partners in the region." It adds that:

"Cooperation should go in two directions: the pooling of common capacities and the tackling of common problems ... implying, at some stage, freedom of movement for goods, services, capital and labour."

If one thing is clear at this point, it is that peace cannot be piecemeal. All the peoples of the region have suffered through the conflict; and just as all have their part to play in its rebuilding and renewal, so must its fruits be distributed equitably.

For it should never be forgotten that peace is ultimately not in the hands of governments, but of individuals; and unless peace can be made attractive to the man on the street, the best efforts of negotiators will come to nought.

Jordan, nearest to the core of the conflict, has shouldered an enormous human load. We have given shelter to three waves of displaced Palestinians. These refugees—about 1.7 million individuals—account today for one third of Jordan's population. The demographic strain on my country is vast; and the conflict has also had consequences in terms of debt. We are grateful for President Clinton's public commitment on the part of the United States to debt relief for Jordan, as our $7bn. debt overhang is a real obstacle to the progressive policies which we wish to adopt. We seek to attract foreign investment, to upgrade infrastructure and to participate fully in regional projects. Jordan is committed to the peace process, to democratisation and economic liberation, to human rights, sustainable development and regional cooperation. But if we are to promote these policies effectively, exceptional efforts will be needed in respect of our debt burden.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

International investment in development projects that serve the region and its peoples is vital. it is equally important that such projects be founded upon sound concepts, and that they receive the support of international financial institutions, governments and multinational corporations alike. A basketing approach, covering human cooperation, resource cooperation and security, must be evolved. Peace requires an enduring structure that can tackle the 'over-arching' problems of economies of the region: disparities created by conflict, over-extended public sectors, addiction to aid on the one hand and oil revenues on the other. An economic framework is needed to deal with such problems. This must in turn be backed up by wide-ranging security and cooperation arrangements at the regional level, involving all players. The multilateral component of the peace process provides a possible framework for this enterprise.

Given such arrangments, the reconstruction of the Middle East could proceed apace. In terms of economic development, a free-trade zone across the Middle East would be the ultimate goal. Arrangements for a Middle East Free Trade Agreement—a MEFTA along the lines of NAFTA—would allow the region to play a more creative role in the world economy. In aspiring to this goal, it will be necessary to consider the freedom of movement of all factors of production: labour, goods, capital and services. In this context, a dialogue on the rights of migrant labour emerges as a vital prerequisite; for the existence of surplus labour in the north, and capital in the south, immediately suggests a viable regional trade regime.

Such a development would provide an impetus for a new relationship of hope in the Middle East. Many other instruments would back this up. First and foremost, there needs to be a commitment to arms control from the purchasers and suppliers of weaponary. Secondly, regional bodies and charters will help ensure equity in resource-related areas such as energy and water; while incentives for local sustainable development programmes can support policies that guarantee a future for all. Finally, a regional debt sinking fund, and a bank for Middle East reconstruction and development, will promote stable and open financial practices, improving the chances for the region to play a dynamic part in the world economy.

For many of the problems of the Middle East stem from the fact that the climate of conflict has forced the diversion of funds away from long-term development and into the military. Generations have grown up in a region which has prioritised military security above health or education. In a Middle East established by a negotiated peace, and upheld by structures of collective security and cooperation, these funds could at last be channelled into building the social and economic foundations of peace, which are the surest foundations of all.

In all these areas, the experience and assistance of the international community of nations, and the international business community, will be indispensable to the Middle East. I am sure that conferences of this sort will help to deepen international understanding of the tasks at hand. I

would like to thank the organisers for all their efforts; and I would like to thank you all for your attention.

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Meets

JN1201202094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Within the framework of the joint coordination between Jordan and the PLO, the security, land, and borders committee, stemming from the higher joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, began its work at the Foreign Ministry building today. The Jordanian side was headed by Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan, and the Palestinian side was headed by Major General Fakhri Shaqqurah. The committee will resume its meetings tomorrow to discuss topics on its agenda.

Al-Majali Meets Spanish Foreign Ministry Official

JN1201171894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received at his office today Dr. Francisco Villiar, Spanish Foreign Ministry under secretary. The prime minister praised the existing relations between the two friendly countries in various areas. He also voiced his thanks and his appreciation for Spain's role and its efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to prepare for and hold the Madrid peace conference, which took an important step toward bringing about peace in the region.

For his part, Villiar conveyed the Spanish prime minister's greetings to the prime minister, as well as the pride he takes in the existing relations between the two friendly countries.

Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with Dr. Francisco Villiar at the Foreign Ministry today. They discussed the special Jordanian-Spanish relations, nurtured by His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Juan Carlos. Dr. Villiar conveyed the Spanish foreign minister's greetings to al-Hasan and talked about Spain's role in calling for the Madrid Middle East peace conference. He also referred to Spain's relations with the Arab countries, particularly with Jordan.

The two sides praised the Madrid peace conference as a historical step that brought together the disputing parties in the Middle East and turned the conference into a legal term of reference to resolve the Middle East issue.

Alleged Muhammad's Army Members Arrested

JN1201125694 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 12 Jan 94 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] AL-BILAD has learned that 12 Islamists were arrested in a large-scale arrest campaign conducted after midnight two weeks ago.

The night visitors concentrated their campaign on al-Nuzhah, Wadi al-Haddadah, al-Rusayfah, al-Mafraq, and other areas of Amman.

Musa Hasan Sulayman and his brother Mustafa were arrested in Bayadir Wadi al-Sayr, while Muhammad Fakhri, Nabil Abu-Harithiyah, and Iyad Shaqildi were arrested in other Amman areas. 'Ala' Abu-Uways and Jawad al-Faqih were arrested in al-Rusayfah.

The security forces stormed the houses of 'Isam Muhammad Tahir, known as Abu-Muhammad, and Ahmad Faysal Nazzal and confiscated books and papers. The security forces are still searching for the two men who are accused of leading an illegal religious group.

AL-BILAD learned that the arrested are charged with affiliation to an illegal party, Muhammad's Army, and that they are mainly Jordanians who volunteered to fight in Afghanistan.

The security organs accused Muhammad's Army of attempting to topple the regime two years ago.

U.S. Ambassador Meets With al-Hariri, Comments

NC1201190594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Mark Hambley said after a meeting with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today that the U.S.-Syrian summit in Geneva will deal with the peace process, including matters of concern to Lebanon and Israel and Syria and Israel. Key issues affecting developments in the region, as well as American-Syrian relations will also be discussed in the summit, he said. He said he cannot definitely say that Lebanon will be discussed in the summit as an independent topic.

Deputy Reacts to Israeli Land Claims

NC1201160394 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Reacting to remarks by the mayor of the Mtullah settlement and the Israeli Government's demand for the restoration of 400 donums [1 donum equals 1.4 acres] of agricultural land in the Marj 'Uyun valley, deputy Habib Sadiq said: We are not surprised. This is the unchanged position of the Israeli entity's officials. What we find peculiar is that this demand is made on the eve of the U.S.-Syrian summit and at a time of preparations for further negotiations, particularly on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

Deputy Sadqi warned Lebanese officials against falling into the traps set up by the Israeli enemy, and he called on them to stand firmly by our legitimate and just rights. He called on Lebanese officials not only to insist on Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territories but also to hand back all the Lebanese land and water resources that it has usurped. He pointed out that Israel has confiscated 13 farms constituting all the agricultural land of Shib'a.

Shelling Reported in South; SLA Seeks Recruits

NC1201181394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] In the south, the Israeli occupation forces shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah, Mlita, and al-Luwayzah from their positions in al-Zaffatah. Israeli military planes overflew al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and Sidon for 15 minutes, carrying out low-altitude mock raids.

According to our correspondent, Israeli occupation forces surrounded Rumaysh, near Bint Jubayl, this morning. The reason for the move was that 15 village youths refused to enlist in Lahd's [South Lebanese Army—SLA] militia.

Norwegian soldiers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, stationed in al-'Urqub, tried to prevent an Israeli Lahdist force from entering Shab'a, but the latter succeeded in entering the village following one hour of negotiations.

REUTER cites a security source in the south to the effect that Lahd militiamen deployed this morning on main roads leading to villages in the western sector of the occupied border strip in order to impress men aged 16 to 35 for military training with the said militia. The militia threatened to take measures against the families of those who fail to undergo training. The source adds that the militias have set up roadblocks on the main roads and intend to search houses for men in the said age group.

Shares of Beirut Reconstruction Firm Oversubscribed

NC1301075694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] The deadline for subscription in the shares of Solidaire, the real estate company for reconstructing Beirut's downtown, expired two days ago. Today Dr. Nasir al-Shamma', secretary general of the company's founding committee, called the sale of shares a success.

Dr. al-Shamma' noted that share purchase offers have totalled $926 million. Most of the buyers, he said, are Lebanese. He explained that the company will return about $300 million to Arab subscribers to give the Lebanese first choice, in keeping with the company's terms of association.

Al-Asad 'Staunch Defender' of Justice at Summit

JN1201155594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The upcoming Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva continues to receive the world's attention. Politicians, observers, and media analysts consider this summit the most prominent event of the year given that it may activate the Middle East peace process and achieve positive, honorable, and satisfactory results on all tracks.

The fact that 4,000 reporters from all over the world are flocking to Geneva gives an idea of the attention given by the world community to this summit and the great aspirations raised by it. The sincere hope that the results of this summit will be translated on the ground into a just and comprehensive peace in the region and into prosperity in the post-peace era. This large-scale concern over the Syrian-U.S. summit is evidence of the entire world's yearning to achieve a firm peace in the Middle East, the principal supporter of which is Syria.

The world community is fully aware that separate deals do not achieve peace but increase tension. It is also aware that Syria's call for a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace based on Security Council resolutions opens the road toward real stability in the region.

There is no doubt that the entire world is sick and tired of Israel's repressive and inhuman acts inside the occupied Arab territories. These acts worry the human conscience and cause it to question the purpose behind the international silence over Israel's serious violations of international principles and laws and the point behind the super powers' use of double standards.

Israel is imposing a tight siege on the occupied territories. The Israeli Army and Zionist settlers are destroying Arab neighborhoods, scorching property owned by Palestinians, and killing Palestinians. Moreover, Israel rejects the Security Council resolutions and insists on occupation and expansion and on obstructing the peace efforts. All this constitutes a real threat not only to Middle East peace but to world peace as well, given the impact the Middle East has throughout the world.

It is worth noting that this world concern focuses on the need for Israel to submit to the resolutions of international legitimacy and to frankly announce that the Golan is Syrian territory, from which Israel should fully withdraw. This is a sign that Syria's sincere efforts to achieve peace have born fruit. The world community never cast doubts on the Arab's intentions, but is casting doubts on Israel's intentions and is denouncing its intransigent stands. The world community went beyond this, noting that President al-Asad's stands are principled stands that cannot be bargained over.

The world's great politicians always take international public opinion into consideration. International public opinion demands a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that removes the Israeli occupation and restores to the Palestinians their national legitimate rights, the most important of which is their right to self-determination.

Certainly, President al-Asad, who has been known as a man of principle and decisionmaking, will not only represent Syria but will represent all the Arabs as well. He will be the staunch defender of the principles of right, justice, and fairness, without which there can be no peace in the Middle East.

Peace contradicts occupation and occupation contradicts dignity. A stable and firm peace must be based on justice and dignity. Justice stipulates the full withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories. Dignity stipulates the restoration of the Palestinian people right to regain their freedom and self-determination.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has many important and serious aspects. These include Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the Palestinian people's rights, the issues of refugees, evacuees, displaced people, and deportees. All of these aspects are collective and their solutions lie in implementing Security Council resolutions and entrenching the principles of international law. The success of the summit, which is important to the entire world, is contingent on its success in tackling these issues.

Papers Hope Geneva Summit Leads to Real Peace

JN1301101094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "On the Eve of the Historic Summit," AL-BA'TH says: The exceptional attention given to the Geneva summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton is due primarily to the interest in achieving peace in the Middle East; a peace which is considered an international demand more than it is a regional or local demand. That attention is also due to the fact that Syria is the cornerstone in the making and maintenance of peace. The strategic view of Syria's president, Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad, has been confirmed by events and experiences to be credible, sound, and concerned for establishing a just and comprehensive peace, that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and which corresponds to the aspirations of the world community to defuse tension and wars in the region and establish peace and security.

The expected summit in Geneva is yet another positive response by Syria aimed at giving another opportunity for the peace process to proceed forward toward the set objective, namely the establishment of the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria's positive stands toward the peace process have helped keep this process viable and alive and blocked the Israeli rulers' stands and intentions aimed at undermining this process and distorting it through partial, incomplete deals.

The paper stresses that the constructive cooperation displayed by Syria toward the initiative of the former George Bush administration and the current Clinton administration has played a decisive role to ensure that the chances for peace are not squandered, that the comprehensive nature of the solution is not undermined, and that the objectives and foundations of the initiative are not bypassed.

The paper stresses that peace can only be achieved with the return of the land and the ending of occupation. The paper further stresses that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are integrated and the peace process cannot be completed without them; that stability in the region is vital and important and is a principal element for world security; and that such a stability can only be realized by achieving the just and comprehensive peace that is based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: When leader al-Asad decides comprehensive peace in exchange for complete withdrawal, he is stressing the equation of right and justice that can be accepted by all nations and peoples and that can entrench and maintain peace. Syria is committed to the peace it advocates and to all of its dimensions and results. Syria means exactly what it says, and there can be no deviation from what President Hafiz al-Asad says.

Within the same context, and under the headline "Comprehensiveness and Stability," TISHRIN writes: As we follow all the assessments, analyses, and expectations on the summit, the basic fact that comes clearly to light is that when Syria leads the process to achieve the just and comprehensive peace in the region, Syria is in fact strengthening the course of international legitimacy on the basis of right, justice, ending occupation, and placing the region on the path of stability and security, away from hegemony, terrorism, expansionism, wars, and calamities.

The paper adds: By adhering to the comprehensive and just solution, Syria is reaffirming that if the region is to enter the age of peace then this can only be achieved by implementing the UN resolutions and the principles of the U.S. initiative, foremost of which is the return of land to its rightful owners, a positive serious Israeli response to the requirements of peace and ending the occupation of the occupied Arab territories, dismantling settlements, and putting an end to the Israeli iron first and expansionist aggressive policy. The paper adds: With this alone, the Arabs can guarantee their rights and with this alone the just and comprehensive peace can be achieved.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Syria, together will all sincere advocates of the just and comprehensive peace, sees in the Geneva summit a major event. It hopes that this summit, and its positive results, will provide a real ground to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, which is an essential requirement for regional stability.

On the same subject, and under the headline "Syria's Strength," AL-THAWRAH says: The world is paying great attention to the summit, hoping it will yield positive results for the future of peace, security, and stability in the Arab region. Meanwhile, Israel is standing alone, fabricating clamor over the summit even before it convenes in an attempt to reshuffle cards, hoping that the Geneva summit will not yield the expected results.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel, which is avoiding the real and just peace, does not want the peace process to return to the correct path. The paper adds: It is hoped that the summit will return the peace process to its correct path, whereby a U.S. commitment to the spirit of the U.S. initiative itself will make Israel face the fact that it cannot escape international legitimacy and that it must provide the requirements for the just and comprehensive peace that can do justice to the Arabs and guarantee the return of their occupied territory and usurped rights.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Leader al-Asad is not going to Geneva to talk about the Golan Heights alone. He will be carrying with him the concerns of the nation and care for its future and critical issues. Historic leadership goes to leader al-Asad, who embodies loyalty to the pan-Arab issues and views Syria's national interests from the pan-Arab perspective. This is the secret of Syria's strength and important role, chartered by leader al-Asad with its pan-Arab dimensions. This is also the reason why its decision is so considerable and stands so decisive in every pan-Arab issue.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Welcomes Islamic Mediation Efforts

PM1301110094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji, 'Abdallah al-Hajj, and Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Rabbani Tells AL-HAYAH: Devil's Alliance Between Hekmatyar and Dostam"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Peshawar—Islamic leaders concerned with the Afghan issue have urged Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to mediate between the Afghan leaders "in view of his spiritual influence" over them. [passage omitted]

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, the Afghan president has welcomed the mediation of the brothers in the Islamic states. However, he warned that his two rivals, Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and Uzbek militia leader Abdul Rashid Dostam, "have always broken the pledges and failed to abide by the agreements."

This comes while the Iranian mediation between Rabbani and Hekmatyar has failed to achieve its aims. The Afghan prime minister informed the Iranian envoy Ibrahim Zaheryan of the opposition alliance's refusal to stop the fighting until the Afghan president submits his resignation.

In a telephone interview conducted with him from Jeddah, President Rabbani told AL-HAYAH that the Hekmatyar-Dostam alliance is a "devil's alliance," and that "its aim is to seize power in Kabul over the bodies and corpses of the innocent." Pointing clearly to Hekmatyar and Dostam, he said that "the alliance between them was established secretly long ago, and when the time came to implement the conspiracy, they announced it."

Rabbani added that "recent events have provoked the indignation of the Islamic world, especially as the aggressors have shelled mosques, houses of worships, and hospitals inside Kabul." Rabbani welcomed the mediation of the brothers in the Islamic states but stressed that Hekmatyar and Dostam "have persisted in breaking pledges and not abiding by agreements." [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Expresses Hope of Cease-Fire

LD1201172294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to prevent a resumption of hostilities and fratricide in Afghanistan continue. The Foreign Ministry has announced that the Islamic Republic government's special envoy to Afghanistan, who delivered a message from President Hashemi- Rafsanjani, expressed the hope this morning, after meetings with Afghan President Rabbani, Prime Minister Hekmatyar, and other leaders of that country, that within the next 48 hours cease-fire arrangements will be implemented.

He added: At the meetings, the Afghan leaders expressed their appreciation for the Islamic Republic's peace efforts and their wish for an end to clashes in Afghanistan.

Elimination of Antigovernment Militia Urged

LD1301001094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Dear listeners, with the passage of every day the need for the disarming of Karmal-Dostam-Golboddin's militia becomes more urgent. The BAKHTAR Information Agency political commentator writes:

The shameful past of the leaders of the conspirators against the Islamic state, and the savagery they inflicted on our nation over the previous 14 years and over the past one and half years, has made all heroic mojahedin of the country join in fighting against the lackeys of the aliens after the declaration of jihad and to eliminate the last pockets of Karmal-Dostam-Golboddin's lackey militia. National traitor Karmal, who has once again embarked on conspiracy and crime, is the most defamed element. He was an instrument in the hands of the Russian aggressors and became a tool for their invasion of our country. His puppet force was crushed under the feet of the mojahedin, and he has become a shameful figure in history.

Golboddin Hekmatyar has resorted to numerous coups and allied himself each time with an anti-national element. Over the one year and eight months since the Islamic revolution, he has washed the city of Kabul in blood many times, and each time has come up with various pretexts to satisfy his ill intentions. This time he has allied himself with national traitor Karmal and has revealed his features.

Abdorrashid Dostam, a lackey of the communists and the murderer of [words indistinct], has this time followed the instruction of national traitor Karmal and hatched a conspiracy [passage indistinct]

Karmal-Golboddin's defamed and anti-Islamic militia fire rockets and drop bombs on civilians and specific government installations in retaliation for their defeats. These acts, which are a product of their savage characteristics, have been used against our Muslim nation in the past as well. However, one thing is clear to all: The 14 years of aerial bombardment by the invaders made the mojahedin braver and increased the resistance of our Muslim people, and now again these bombardments have increased the anger of our people and consolidated the ranks of the mojahedin.

There is one more issue. Some people make efforts to lengthen the life of the conspirators by trying to arrange a cease-fire. Now that they are on the verge of definite elimination, any kind [word indistinct] of cease-fire will mean giving further opportunity to their remnants. Past experience also shows that Golboddin Hekmatyar was saved from certain defeat every time by his foreign supporters.

It is true that if matters could be resolved through peace, this would be better than fighting. But only the total elimination of Karmal-Dostam's militia and the resolute decision of Golboddin not to resume fighting can be acceptable to the mojahedin. All those who have lost their lives during the confrontation against this conspiracy and

those who fight in the first line of the armed jihad ask all those who have intervened in this direction and all state and military office holders not to accept this cease-fire without the elimination of the Karmal-Dostam-Golboddin militia. The country must be cleansed of the dirt of the remnants of the national traitor Karmal in order that our faithful people can live a peaceful life.

Hezb-e Wahdat Official Views Situation

NC1201205694 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 2 Jan 94 p 14

[Interview with Mohammad Hasan Ja'fari, member of the Central Council of the Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party], of Afghanistan, with unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How do you assess Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's visit to Islamic countries and his recent visit to Tajikistan?

[Ja'fari] These visits, which took place without the coordination of the Jehad Council and the leaders of parties, were made within the context of stating party and group objectives and positions. In addition to these points, Rabbani's visit to Tajikistan also included discussions on the problems along the two countries' borders as well as discussions on the return of thousands of Tajik refugees to their country.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How do you assess the agreement between Rabbani and Mubarak on arresting and handing over Egyptian combatants who actively participated in the Afghan jehad for many years?

[Ja'fari] This agreement has no legal and official status as far as the jehadi groups are concerned and can be studied only within the framework of a personal view!

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Do you regard Mr. Rabbani's actions as illegal? Is this really so?

[Ja'fari] The actions by the current Afghan Government are illegal, since Mr. Rabbani has trampled on all former commitments as well as the Jalalabad agreement, which stipulated the mode of participation by all the jehadi parties in managing the country. As far as the jehadi parties are concerned, even the decisions by the current Hall wa 'Aqd Council are unimplementable because of the personal changes that Mr. Rabbani has made in its composition. Moreover, none of the four major parties of Afghanistan are members in this council.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Some believe that Hezb-e Wahdat appears to be confused in Afghanistan's political scene and in its approach on other groups. Is this assessment correct?

[Ja'fari] The objective of Hezb-e Wahdat is to establish a comprehensive peace throughout Afghanistan and it has exerted all its efforts and forces toward this end. Hezb-e Wahdat represents 25 percent of the Shiite population in Afghanistan and wants the rights of the Shiites to be established and social and political justice to prevail in society. Therefore, we expect other parties to accept and to believe in our logical desires. Within this framework, they sometimes impose wars on us and we have no other alternative but to defend ourselves. But we emphasized that Hezb-e Wahdat has never fomented war.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How has Hezb-e Wahdat reacted to the resignation by Golboddin Hekmatyar from his post as prime minister?

[Ja'fari] As far as we know, Mr. Hekmatyar has not resigned and this is only a rumor that has been disseminated by the news circles of some of the groups.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The people of Afghanistan are tired of the war and the recent incidents. The unfavorable impact that they have had on Afghan public opinion has even put in question the beliefs and objectives of the jehadi groups.

[Ja'fari] If Hezb-e Wahdat's plan to end the conflicts and to establish a coalition government had been implemented, we would definitely not have been witnessing the avenging and expansionist acts by some of the parties today.

On the basis of the Hezb-e Wahdat's plan which was also agreed on, Afghanistan's major parties comprising the Hezb-e Wahdat, the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society], the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], and the National-Islamic Movement of Northern Afghanistan would form a provisional council and run the country's affairs until elections were held. Also, the other parties too would be in close cooperation with the council. However, the explicit opposition by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, leader of the Supervisory Council of the Jami'at-e Eslami defeated this plan and this ultimately led to the spread of the war.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is the outcome of the many months of efforts by the Elections Committee?

[Ja'fari] Practically nothing.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What objectives are there behind the formation of the Constitutional Committee by Borhanoddin Rabbani?

[Ja'fari] The formation of this committee does not fall within the authorities of Mr. Rabbani because on the basis of the Jalalabad agreement, the representatives of all of Afghanistan's ethnic groups and tribes should actively participate in the formation of such an extensive organization.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What does Hezb-e Wahdat want from the future constitution of Afghanistan?

[Ja'fari] The recognition of the Ja'fari sect, the election of Shiites to form one-fourth of the future government, and the participation of the various ethnic groups on the basis of a population count in the management of the country's affairs.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] How are relations between Hezb-e Wahdat and the other parties in Afghanistan?

[Ja'fari] Hezb-e Wahdat has good relations with all the groups and is ready to extend a hand of friendship and peace toward Sayyaf's Ettehad e-Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] if it reviews and corrects its past positions.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is your opinion on the social and security situation in the various parts of Afghanistan?

[Ja'fari] Unfortunately, the security situation in most of the country's areas is unfavorable and disorder prevails. In other words, in each one of the country's provinces a local government has been formed and there are no contacts between these local governments and the central government. Of course there are some areas in northern Afghanistan that enjoy relative security and among these provinces we can name Jowzjan, Mazar-e Sharif, Sarpol, and Baghlan as well as cities in central Afghanistan, namely Bamiyan, Meydan, Gharbi, and Oruzgan. But as far as the social situation is concerned, the repercussions of the war have rendered the people helpless. The oppressed people of Afghanistan and the entire land of Afghanistan are suffering from poverty. The situation of the people is extremely painful.

The people of Afghanistan and especially the residents in western Kabul are living under conditions that are very difficult to describe. The residents in the Shiite areas in west Kabul that are governed by the central government are suffering from the central government's disfavor and bias in addition to having to suffer the impact of the war and they are deprived even of the most essential living essentials such as water and electricity.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] International organizations claim that they are placing great assistance in the form of food and medicine at the disposal of the Afghan Government and some of the jehadi groups every day. What do you have to say about this?

[Ja'fari] Until now, some consignments of international relief organizations were sent to Afghanistan. But I can say now that no assistance from abroad is reaching the people of Afghanistan at the present time.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Under the current situation, what message do you have for the leaders of Afghanistan's jehad parties?

[Ja'fari] The people of Afghanistan are sick and tired of the war and it is not important to them which group is confronting whom. The people of Afghanistan seek tranquility, security, and peace. The jehadi leaders of Afghanistan are well aware that conflicts and clashes cannot and will not yield any victor but that there is a balance of power in the country. Therefore, the only alternative is to tolerate and to accept one another and work to lay the foundation for a general understanding on the basis of the interests of all the people of Afghanistan.

India

Delhi Protests Pakistani Intelligence in Dhaka

BK1301034294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] India has protested to Bangladesh for allowing Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence], to operate from its land. New Delhi's concern was conveyed by the director general of BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. Prakash Singh, at the two-day India-Bangladesh coordination meeting which concluded in the capital yesterday. The Bangladesh delegation was led by the director general of Bangladesh Rifles, Mohammad Anwar Hussain. A BSF spokesman said that India also raised the issue of support being received by insurgent groups of the Northeast. The question of illegal immigration from Bangladesh was also raised at the meeting with India insisting that the 1991 agreement at the home secretary level should be implemented to sort out the problem.

As already reported, both India and Bangladesh agreed at the meeting to coordinate their efforts to check smuggling. The two sides also decided to undertake delineation of 50 kms of undemarcated border. The work on repair and maintenance of border pillars along the international border is to be taken up with the security forces of the two countries.

The BSF spokesman said that both India and Bangladesh have agreed that security forces should observe utmost restraint in the disputed Muharichar area and take demarcation of the border in the 1.6-km stretch immediately.

General Says Kashmir Militants 'Demoralized'

BK1301100694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the militancy has declined after the Hazratbal [shrine] crisis. This was stated by the general officer commanding in chief of the Northern Command, Lieutenant General Surendra Singh, while addressing a press conference at Udhampur yesterday. He said the militants are feeling demoralized. Infighting among the militant groups is also a cause of their frustration. The general said the situation in the state is under control. He, however, did not rule out sporadic incidents of violence or killings by the militants to create tension. He said the so-called strongholds of militants, like Sopor and some other parts in the valley, have been cleared and the people are now heaving a sigh of relief.

Bhutto's China Visit, Talks With Li Peng Viewed

BK1201112594 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Dec 93 p 8

[Editorial: "The Sino-Pakistan Link"]

[Text] Chinese friendship has been an important factor in Pakistan's foreign policy from two points of view in the last thirty years. First, every government in Islamabad has sought Chinese help in procuring military hardware and

nuclear know-how and materials with varying degrees of success. Secondly, the Pakistanis have naturally attached the greatest importance to eliciting significant Chinese diplomatic support for its case on Kashmir. Benazir Bhutto's visit to Beijing has made hardly any difference to bilateral ties from either point of view. As far as the first objective is concerned, the Pakistan Prime Minister's talks with Premier Li Peng have not produced any dramatic result. None of the five documents on cooperation signed on this occasion relates to military items although the Pakistan Defence Minister, Aftab Shaban Mirani, along with the Foreign and Commerce Ministers, were present at the talks between the two delegations led by the PMs. It is not clear whether this is because Mirani, who was in Beijing three weeks ago also, had already transacted military business. The possibility of significant military purchases from China cannot, of course, be ruled out. If the two sides have decided to carry on covert business in this field, that is the established pattern all over the world.

In terms of the requirements of Pakistan's current diplomacy, a new helpful gesture by China, on Kashmir was actually far more important to Benazir Bhutto. She has not achieved this purpose. Li Peng merely reiterated the known Chinese stand that India and Pakistan should resolve this question "through patient dialogue" and "welcomed efforts conducive to a settlement". This advice cannot have been sweet music to the visiting lady's ears. It is hardly distinguishable from what the Simla Agreement enjoins India and Pakistan to do. As is well know, Islamabad pays only lip-service to this agreement wh"' moving heaven and earth to sabotage it in practice. The lesson to be drawn, therefore, is that the Chinese connection is unlikely to give Pakistan more diplomatic manoeuverability than hitherto. In a notable amplification of China's present policy on Kashmir, the Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Li Ruihuan, during his recent visit to New Delhi, had also condemned terrorism in any form.

The sooner the Pakistani policy-makers realise the futility of concentrating on enlisting the support of other countries for its claim to Kashmir instead of reaching an amicable settlement with India, the better it will be for regional peace and stability. To reject such a shift in the face of the demands of the new international situation will be to cling to a world of make-believe. The challenge before Benazir Bhutto is to lead her people not back into the dreary past, but towards a reassuring future.

Iran

Khamene'i Views Palestine Issue at Koran Ceremony

LD1301135794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Excerpt] This morning in the ceremonies marking the end of the tenth round of competitions for the memorization and recital of the Holy Koran which were held in Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyeh, the esteemed leader of the revolution His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the Holy Koran as the best safeguard for the well-being of the country and the continuation of the system of the Islamic Republic. He stressed the need for teaching and learning the Holy Koran.

In these ceremonies which lasted for more than two hours, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the Muslim Iranian nation's familiarity with and love for the Holy Koran as a great divine bounty. He said: Koranic studies are daily increasing among our nation. The Koran should penetrate the hearts more than ever before and should be implemented in the society.

Stressing the close ties existing between the Koran and the Imamate [etrat—Shiite term referring to imams who followed the Prophet] and the need for the greater reliance of Muslim nations on these two inseparable entities, the esteemed leader of the revolution said: Today the slogan of "Koran, Islam, and the call of God" has spread among Muslim nations. If other Islamic nations and governments remain together like the Iranian nation and government and if they rely on the Holy Koran, arrogant powers cannot dominate such governments.

Referring to the importance of the issue of Palestine, the esteemed leader described Palestine as a part and parcel of the Islamic homeland and a land which was the first qiblah [direction in which Muslims turn during their prayers] of the Muslims of the world. He said that the influence of the hands of arrogant powers over the Islamic governments is the main reason why the issue of Palestine has been forgotten. He added: The enemies of Islam and Muslims by exerting pressure on Islamic and Arab governments have taken them out of the arena of struggle, so much so that these governments discuss minor issues in their meetings, but the issue of Palestine which is among the most important issues of the world of Islam is forgotten. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Plans To Produce Nuclear Arms

LD1201150794 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—A spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization dismissed as sheer lies an American daily report alleging that Iran is after production of nuclear weapons and said the hostile move was part of a preplanned U.S. plot against the Islamic World.

Speaking to IRNA Wednesday, 'Ali Shirzadian strongly denied the 'U.S. Today' [as recieved] report on Iran's nuclear activities and said Iran is one of the active members of the Internaional Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is faithful to its commitments as a signatory to the treaty.

He noted that Iran's Atomic Energy Organization was committed to the principle of nuclear inspection adding that it had a clear policy and its activities had been for peaceful purposes.

The spokesman further said that due to the Islamic Republic's commitment to the rules, the U.S. hostile propaganda against Iran's atomic activities had not least affected the IAEA decisions so far.

He said that the organization's report to the council of governors on Iran's clear atomic policies last fall was a firm response to U.S. allegations against the Islamic republic.

The IAEA secretary-genaral had said in his report that all the sites, buildings and laboratories inspected in Iran were devoid of any non-peaceful nuclear activities.

Rowhani: U.S. Stance Childish, Immature, Unripe

LD1201163894 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani Wednesday said the Iranian people's enmity with the U.S. is a historical, revolutionary, ideological and religious matter.

"Washington's stance on the Islamic Republic of Iran is childish, immature, and unripe," Rowhani said in an interview published by the periodical "MAJLES AND RESEARCH".

He said "the U.S. is hostile to Iran and it does not make its hostility a secret...our people have always suffered blows and seen violence on the part of the U.S."

"The task of determining the basic policies of the country and the system initially rests with the leader (Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i) and he has explicitly reaffirmed that we have no interest in relations with the U.S. and that such relations are detrimental to us," he said.

"Not all countries of the world are friends of the U.S. but their tones may differ from ours. They may speak in a diplomatic tone or hide their real intentions. But the Islamic Republic's positions are clear and obvious," the vice-speaker said.

He added that despite attempts of enemies to misportray Iran as a country wishing to launch aggression on or intervene in the internal affairs of other countries what has happened over the past few years proved that such rumors were nothing but unfounded and baseless propaganda.

The parliamentarian maintained that the Islamic Republic has managed to show its Islamic and human face to the world particularly during the past few years.

But, he added, it is natural for a country like Iran which intends to live independently in the Third World and in such a sensitive region as the Middle East to be threatened by its enemies.

"Whether wanted or not, the Islamic Republic of Iran is shouldering the leadership of many communities of the world. But Iran's leadership is different from America's domineering leadership... Iran governs hearts of millions of people throughout the world," Rowhani reiterated.

Iran has been identified as a powerful and independent country, as a country whose religion and politics, its people and officials are in harmony, a country opposed to aggression, a peace-loving country and a country which is truly loyal to its slogans and causes, he said.

The Majles vice-speaker also blasted the U.S.-sponsored new world order and said not only the number of conflicts between countries has increased but also a country is occupied by another country under the so-called new world order.

Radio Updates Afghan Political, Military Situation

NC1301083694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan indicate that the clashes in Kabul have died down and that the conflicting sides are only firing at military areas. Our correspondent reports that the conflicting sides claim to have inflicted heavy damage on each other.

A spokesman for General Dostam has said that yesterday a plane of the Supervisory Council attacked Bagram Airport, which is 60 km northeast of Kabul and is under the control of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. However, a spokesman for Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has said that positions of General Dostam's forces and of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] in the Bala Hesar Heights and Maranjan Hill were bombed several times.

Another report from Afghanistan also states that our ambassador to Afghanistan handed a written message from Velayati to the Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] secretary general yesterday. Also, the UN secretary general has announced his readiness to send a special political delegation to Afghanistan in a bid to establish peace. The UN secretary general's statement says that with the help of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other countries, a group known as the friends of the secretary general on Afghan affairs will be formed and will play a consultative role in the secretary general's decision.

Tehran Urges Afghan Factions To Cooperate

LD1201192694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1655 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After several days of heavy clashes among rival groups in Afghanistan, diplomatic efforts are under way to end the fighting and bring the positions of the groups involved closer together. For that purpose the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy, just as before, is seeking to restore peace to Kabul by mediating between rival political and military groups.

In the eyes of political analysts there are three ways to end the Afghan crisis. The first is for one or two jihadi groups, which are more popular than other groups, to act as mediators. The second is that friendly and neighboring

states mediate among the fighting groups. And the third way is for an international organization or authority to embark on mediation.

Although none of those ways has been able finally to resolve the Afghan issue it does not mean that hope should be given up for restoring peace and stability and stopping efforts to end the internal war in Afghanistan. On this presupposition, the Islamic Republic intends to continue its diplomatic efforts and in this process expects cooperation from other rival political and military groups.

From the Islamic Republic's point of view the occurrence of any confrontation in Afghanistan, on any pretext at all, is condemned. The experience of past bloody clashes has shown that because of the extreme factionalism among the warring sides the possibility that one side will dominate the other is remote. Furthermore, this endless war does not have any consequence except the further destruction of Afghanistan and the killing and injuring of a greater number of the people of that country. Also, it paves the way for abuse by foreign powers.

Islamic Iran—which always was a friend and sympathizer of the tyrannized people of Afghanistan during their 14-year jihad against the sovereignty of communists—does not expect the jihadi groups to embark on slaughtering each other with the massive volume of destructive weaponry in their possession. At one time they were fighting along a unified front to topple the rule of infidelity and atheism in Afghanistan. They should not now utilize Afghanistan's resources and potential to destroy rather than reconstruct it.

What so far has resulted in a military and political impasse is a lack of unified and all-embracing leadership, the insubordination of junior commanders toward their commanders and leaders, the existence of irresponsible armed groups throughout Afghanistan, the widespread availability of arms left from before, and, generally speaking, the mistrust of rival political and military leaders of each other. Such obstacles have caused political analysts to believe that the first step for breaking the impasse depends on further flexibility by the jihadi leaders. So long as the Afghan political and military leaders do not agree on a unified position, attaining an agreement to end the fighting and establish peace in Afghanistan will be difficult. That is why the Islamic Republic intends—while adopting a policy of noninterference in other states' internal affairs—to bring the positions of the jihadi groups closer together through consultation with them and prepare the ground for peace and the consolidation of sovereignty in Afghanistan. It is expected that the jihadi groups will sincerely cooperate and join their efforts with those of the Islamic Republic of Iran to reach that sacred objective.

Official Takes Velayati Message To Baku, Yerevan

LD1201162694 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbaijan Prov., Jan. 12, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Director General for CIS and Caucasia Affairs, Morteza Bank, left here for Yerevan Tuesday. He will visit Baku after Yerevan.

Bank is to submit a message from Iran's Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, to his Armenian and Azeri counterparts.

He is making the visits following the one by Russian special envoy on Karabakh crisis, Vladimir Kazymirov, to Iran last week.

Both Kazymirov and the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials stressed prevention of the Karabakh crisis from growing into an international issue and underlined the continuation of joint cooperation in settling the dispute.

Government To Establish Islamic Center in Baku

NC1201214694 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Jan 94 p 14

[Report by ETTELA'AT Ardabil correspondent]

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi 'Eraqi, the head of the Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO] returned from Baku, in the center of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and explained the cultural and religious needs of the Azerbaijani refugees who are housed in the camps set up by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the IPO public relations department, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi 'Eraqi was addressing the hail-and-farewell ceremonies that are held at the Azerbaijani Governorate upon the departure of former officials and the introduction of replacements in the IPO branch at Ardabil. He spoke on the needs of the refugees of Azerbaijan and stated: At present there are 25,000 Azerbaijani men, women, and children who are refugees and require humanitarian aid from Iran.

Referring to the establishment of the Headquarters for Cultural and Propagandistic Support in the camps for Azerbaijani refugees, he mentioned their enthusiasm in learning Farsi. The IPO head then recounted their needs for a Persian language teacher, a Koran teacher, texts, Islamic apparel, religious texts, and veils. He requested the Hezbollah nation, organizations and institutions to donate unstintingly to the Headquarters for Cultural and Propagandistic Support at the refugee camps and to assist in catering to their needs.

During these ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Abadi was introduced as the new IPO official in Ardabil. He expressed his appreciation for the services of his predecessor Hojjat ol-Eslam Ne'mati.

The IPO chief Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi 'Eraqi announced at the ceremonies to introduce the IPO official in charge of the Ardabil branch that the IPO is to set up a vast Islamic cultural center in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. He added: Some educational institutes and a dormitory to house the theological seminary students of Azerbaijan will be set up by the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku.

Mohammadi 'Eraqi then referred to the Azerbaijani people's enthusiasm for learning Farsi and Islamic injunctions and called on the cultural and propagandistic organizations of the country to assist the Azerbaijanis in this regard.

Commentary on UAE's 'Baseless Claims' to Islands

LD1301003494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1935 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Following the recent session of foreign ministers of the six member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], as well as Syria and Egypt, known as a six plus two sessions, Dr. Mahmud Mohammadi, a spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry, in a conversation with the IRNA yesterday, explained Iran's views on certain stands of members of the session on the dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry, in referring to the final statement of the Damascus session, described as a repetition of UAE's baseless claims, what has been set forth in the statement.

At the same time he reiterated Iran's readiness to continue dialogue with the UAE for resolving the dispute. Indisputably in the opinion of political observers, the dispute between Iran and the UAE over the Iranian islands, due to the assertion of baseless claims by the UAE, has drawn attention of some Arab states of the Persian Gulf region and participants in the Damascus session. Hence before being based on realities, it is an issue that has been asserted in line with the regional developments and for the sake of holding of sessions by the Arab states. Obviously such a trend cannot be construed as indicative of the real stand of the UAE. This very point has again been refuted by the spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry. The spokesman expressed regret over the fact that the UAE's Government, while stressing bilateral talks to remove misunderstanding between the two states, has not taken any practical steps in this regard.

At any rate, as explained in the comments of Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, the officials of Iran's Islamic Republic system have constantly stressed the principle of good neighborliness and removal of differences through negotiations.

At present too, they, similar to the past, have announced their readiness for holding talks with the UAE authorities. But these efforts can attain the desired result only when the UAE officials reciprocate this good intention with a positive response. Hence UAE authorities, to bolster friendship, good neighborliness, and regional stability must show a positive response in practice based on realism and devoid of any impacts arising from passive stance adopted by such sessions as the Damascus meeting.

Larijani: Talks With German Officials 'Successful'

NC1301085494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Mohammad Javad Larijani, who has gone to Germany at the head of a parliamentary delegation, described the results of his discussions with Bonn officials as successful. Speaking in Bonn yesterday, he said that the objective behind the visit was to better express the Islamic Republic's stance on important world issues and to follow up on relations between the two countries.

Commenting on the topics discussed with the German officials, the vice chairman of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission stressed: We held detailed discussions on matters concerning Central Asian countries and ways for Tehran-Bonn cooperation in that region, as well as the Islamic Republic's policy on Middle Eastern problems and especially on the PLO-Israel accord. Larijani said that another topic discussed during his talks with the German officials was the issue of Salman Rushdie. He said: We pointed out to Bonn officials that the support by Western statesmen, and especially by Germany, for Rushdie is not only an insult to millions of Muslims in the world but is also a tension-creating element among the various faiths and harms international peace, security, and understanding.

Algerian Muslims Reportedly Growing in Strength

NC1301083994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Commentary prepared by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The killing of 18 Algerian Government officials, including the governor of Tlemcen and his bodyguards in an attack on their convoy carried out by the opposition, is one sign that the balance of power between the government and the opposition in Algeria is shifting. The attack on a convoy consisting of several cars that were heavily guarded in broad daylight shows that the attackers are well organized and armed and that their number was probably double the number of the government officials who were killed.

Political observers believe that the intensification of anti-state operations and the lack of popular support for the government, as well as the dichotomy in the Army, which is the only institution that supports the ruling military council, have questioned the Algerian Government's capability to control the current crisis in the country. The Muslims, the most powerful opposition group in Algeria, are becoming stronger each day and their strongholds in provinces and villages are increasing.

The Islamists have recently set up checkpoints in some of the areas they control. Also, they have complete control at night over other areas where the government's presence in the daytime is not very strong. The Algerian interior

minister admits that at night the cities of Blida and Sidi Bel Abbes and the Djidjelli forest areas in eastern and western Algeria are completely under the control of the opposition.

The shift in the balance of power in Algeria between the government and the opposition—which is happening on the eve of the reopening of negotiations between the government and the political parties, with the exception of the Islamic Salvation Front, to determine the interim government's authority—reveals that the talks cannot be successful without the participation of the Islamists, who are the main actors in Algeria's political scene. The Islamists, who showed in the elections two years ago that they enjoy extensive popular support, are a determining force and ignoring them cannot end the Algerian crisis. In other words, omitting the Islamists from negotiations on determining the authority and special characteristics that the interim government will have means that the future situation will not be better than the current situation and that there should be no hope that the Algerian crisis will end.

Bosnian Envoy Discusses Tehran's Initiatives

NC1301092294 Tehran ETTELA'AT (supplement) in Persian 28 Dec 93 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Bosnian Ambassador to Iran Omar Bahman by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [ETTELA'AT] Ambassador, could you tell us your opinion on the "day of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina"?

[Bahman] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Declaring a day of solidarity with Bosnia-Herzegovina is a commendable move but a verbal expression of sympathy alone should not suffice. You should persuade them [not further identified] to adopt clear and definite decisions. Those who believe it is enough to pay mere lipservice should remember that they can become involved in similar predicaments.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you appraise the reaction of Islamic countries on Bosnia-Herzegovina? Have they met Bosnian expectations?

[Bahman] Islamic countries have not done all they should in the face of such atrocities. Unfortunately, when assistance was needed, it did not come. Now it is too late.

[ETTELA'AT] There have been numerous rounds of peace talks by the EC and the United Nations to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. What has been the outcome for Bosnia?

[Bahman] As I said, the Islamic countries have not met Bosnian expectations and some still deal with the aggressors. Some have thought only of keeping their governments in power and, since they demand assistance from abroad, these foreigners motivate them to act against Islamic countries. Tomorrow, they will meet the same fate.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view the recent peace talks in Geneva and Brussels? Can the sides reach a compromise in these talks?

[Bahman] The sole objective of these conferences is to have Europe free itself of the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The objective is to terminate the war but without bearing in mind the rights of the Bosnian Muslims. This conference will resolve nothing and misfortune and hardship will still prevail.

[ETTELA'AT] How do you see the current position of the secessionists of the Bihac uprising?

[Bahman] The Bihac scenario was staged by a group who were safeguarding the former regime's interests. They are the supporters of the former (Bolshevik) regime. They wish to rule regardless and clearly, this country's enemies are assisting them. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How do you view relations between Iran and the Bosnian Muslim government and their future?

[Bahman] The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to extend assistance to the extent it can. This is why conditions for greater cooperation have been created. Iran is one of the greater countries for trade and construction and if peace is restored in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the two sides can forge bilateral cooperation.

[ETTELA'AT] What message do you have for our readers?

[Bahman] There are many things that should be said but my message to the Iranian people is that first, solidarity among Muslims is important, as there can be no progress without it. Second, wisdom and intelligence are necessary everywhere. Specialists and youth should seek to acquire new technology and grapple with problems. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a competent specialized cadre. No one should content himself with dependence on foreign specialists or seek solutions from them.

Paper Interviews Sudanese Ambassador al-Mahdi

NC1201202894 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Jan 94 p 14

["Exclusive" interview with Sudanese Ambassador to Iran Qutbi al-Mahdi by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Mr. Ambassador, the West's propaganda stance against the Sudanese Government has now entered a more serious phase and has led to the economic boycott of Sudan. It is feared that this pressure will become even more serious and more dangerous. Do you have the same feeling?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, we too have this feeling. But with our people's support, we are ready to face anything.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What do you mean by "anything?" Do you foresee a military intervention?

[Al-Mahdi] We now see the indirect military intervention of arrogance in our country. They are strengthening the

rebels in southern Sudan with arms and money. Also, they have started conflicts in northern Sudan so that attention will be diverted from the south and so that in the propaganda atmosphere created, they can more easily invest in and support the rebels in the south.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Are you not afraid because the United States and its Western allies have militarily intervened in Somalia, your neighbor, and do you not think that Sudan's turn will come after Somalia?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, basically, it would have been Sudan's turn after Somalia. But with the lesson that the Americans learned in Somalia, it is impossible that they will take this dangerous risk. They are aware of the uniformity that exists between the government and the nation of Sudan. They also have their actions in Somalia in front of their eyes. Naturally, under such conditions they do not consider it advisable to repeat their disgrace in our country.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Then do you rule out the threat of a military attack against Sudanese territory?

[Al-Mahdi] No, not completely. We only consider it improbable and think that they have concentrated their policy against us in other forms such as economic sanctions, boycotts of our exports, preventing economic investments in Sudan, and—of course—sending arms and money to the armed rebels in southern and northern Sudan.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] You are emphatically specific in attributing the uprisings in southern and northern Sudan to forces outside your borders. Do you have any proof of this?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, based on the type and brand of the arms that we have taken from the rebels and the prolongation of their resistance, we are confident that they are receiving support from abroad.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Which government do you suspect?

[Al-Mahdi] I am not accusing a specific government. But the crisis in southern Sudan has definitely been created by British colonialism. Britain started to invest greatly on creating ethnic and religious differences in Sudan a long time ago, and we consider British colonialism to have been very involved in the commencement of the crisis in our country. This is historical fact. As for northern Sudan, it is not in the interest of any country to support the incidents and the uprisings there. We believe that such tensions in southern and northern Sudan stem from a specific policy that the United States and Israel are pursuing today.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Mr. Ambassador, you strongly condemn governments that are far from your borders for the ethnic crisis and the domestic rebellions in your country, as if there were no other country along your borders that had a hand in sparking the fire in Sudan.

[Al-Mahdi] Look, we are living in a world that is being managed on the basis of a new order—a system that has its regional mentors, elements, and supporters. I only want to say that there are also many governments and nations that are resisting this order. They are not sitting idle and are defending the rights of the oppressed.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Mr. Ambassador, the Westerners have accused you of opposing the military presence of the U.S. and UN forces in Somalia or, in other words, of supporting the people and the rebel groups in that country. Is this accusation correct?

[Al-Mahdi] They have to prove their accusation. They want to cover up their defeat in Somalia by resorting to such accusations. Naturally, we consider the people in Somalia to be right, and we also know that the foreign forces have not gone to Somalia to help the Somalians and that their mission has never been humanitarian as was publicized. Naturally, some governments have extended support for the popular resistance in that country. But this does not mean that a specific country can be so easily accused.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] I thank you for Your Excellency's remarks and would like to hear your comments on the relations between your government and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Al-Mahdi] The most important aspect in the relations between Iran and Sudan that has enraged the two countries' common enemies is the Islamic nature of both countries. In other words, Islam has become a common element that has paved the way for a healthy and fraternal relationship between the two countries. This is a phenomenon that is very rare in the world. We have been able to transform our friendship and our positive relations from words into deeds. Our political stances are the same and both of our countries have a common view at international forums. We in our country have greatly benefited from the technology and the economic and technical strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we are observing Iran's constructive activities in our country; and this is something that we value.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Mr. Ambassador, if you have something to add, please do so.

[Al-Mahdi] I only want to make one point and that is that we are an independent country, nation, and government. Today we are actually paying for our independence. The West's pressures, plots, and attacks against us are happening because today we want to stand on our own two feet and become economically self-sufficient, contrary to the past. The West's fear is that we want to implement Islamic shariah in our country and to rid ourselves of the pro-Western culture that is a legacy of colonialism. If we are now able to stand on our feet despite all the foreign pressures to weaken us, it is because we enjoy the people's support.

IRGC Said Responsible For Protecting Against Hijacking

LD1301133694

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0905 GMT on

13 January broadcasts the "In Line With the People, in Step With the Officials" phone-in program. This week's program, which lasts 88 minutes, features five senior officials of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC]: Brigadier General Seyyed Rahim Safavi, the deputy commander of the IRGC; Brigadier General Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, the head of the IRGC's Joint Staff; Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Razini, deputy to Ayatollah Khamene'i's representative in the IRGC; Brigadier General Mohammad 'Ali Ja'fari, the commander of the IRGC's Ground Forces; and Brigadier General Amir 'Ali Amiri; head of the IRGC personnel office.

The participants stress the instrumental role of the IRGC in defending the country and the revolution during the war with Iraq, and as well as its important contributions to Iran's post-war reconstruction and development. This is followed by interviews with members of the public who pay tribute to the IRGC and its important services, and ask for more information on the IRGC's involvement in development projects. In reply, Brigadier General Safavi enumerates a number of projects, such as construction of dams and gas pipe- lines.

A relative of a martyr asks what assistance is given to the families of martyrs. Amiri says that part of the IRGC duties is to identify all IRGC martyrs, visit their families, and cooperate with the Martyrs Foundation to help these families. Zolqadr also talks about a university for sciences which is run by the IRGC.

Razini is asked about the function of the representative of the leader in the IRGC. He says that the IRGC came into being to safeguard the gains of the revolution. The task of the leader's representative is to make sure that the original revolutionary spirit is maintained. His other roles are to ensure the guards' ideological suitability and supervise their promotion, and to conduct a general supervision of the IRGC to ensure that all its decisions and regulations are in keeping with religious norms.

One of the guards asks if any attempts are being made to write a documentary history of the Iran-Iraq war. Ja'fari says that some cultural and artistic activities are under way to safeguard the memory of the gains of the war. Safavi adds that there is a great deal of audio recording about the events of the war, as well as about 100,000 pages of records about the history of the war. These will be useful in future for those who wish to write the history of the war.

Then there are a number of questions about promotions, transfers, career development opportunities, and pensions and benefits for IRGC personnel. Amiri provides detailed answers to these questions.

At the conclusion of the program, Zolqadr refers to the IRGC's contribution to the fight against terrorists attempting to hijack Iranian airplanes. He says: "I only wished to use this opportunity to mention the efforts of our dear brothers, the unknown guards who have the very important responsibility of protecting the aircraft of the country. I must say that during the period when on the orders of the late imam the IRGC was given the responsibility of protecting the aircraft of the country and the flights, 70 plots for aircraft hijacking were foiled by the dear guards and nothing went wrong during that period. I should just explain that the last case in which one of the Oil Ministry's private aircraft was hijacked to Iraq by the counterrevolutionaries—that case happened by dint of the fact that there were no guards on board. The IRGC was not responsible for that flight, and the aircraft was not guarded by the IRGC. After that, as a result of the insistence of national officials, the IRGC was given the responsibility of providing protection for all flights. It was made responsible for their protection. I like to thank the brothers for this during these blessed days."

Missile Maneuvers Begin in Strait of Hormuz, Oman Sea

LD1301115994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] With the coordination of the missile command headquarters of the Khatem al-Anbiya' base, the Thar-Allah missile maneuvers began yesterday in the waters of the strategic Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. We have a report on this:

[Correspondent] The land-to-sea missile units, as well as airborne, seaborne, and radar units from the first naval zone of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran are participating in these maneuvers. The participating units will be displaying the operational capabilities of the land-to-sea missile sites in defending the territorial waters in the south of the country.

The maneuvers will last for 6 days, during which the participating forces will perform the various stages of facilitating coordination between the different components of a land-to-sea missile operation. By using the most advanced combat tactics, they will display the operational readiness of the missile units' personnel, and the ability of the forces of Islam to confront offensives waged by the enemy's naval units.

Commentary Questions Minister's Banning of Rally

NC1201213694 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Jan 94 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Minister, Sir: One Cannot Forge a Society With Directives"]

[Text] A political society needs participation in political affairs; otherwise, political disillusionment sets in and gradually disenchantment with all political affairs engulfs the whole society. Preservation of the freshness and fervor of the presence of society in political affairs cannot be done by force. Neither can government directives be instrumental in politicizing a society, nor can one force the

people to participate in political affairs at a particular juncture or for the sake of the personal inclinations of an individual.

That society has a constant presence on the political scene which is endowed with political acumen and this cannot be achieved without the spontaneous fervor of the people for such a presence and is only possible when the society feels such a need.

The great leader of the revolution constantly stresses the people's regular presence on the political scene and recently too he exhorted the students to cultivate political understanding and insight—it is a source of amazement that the students cannot participate in the most essential gathering and march against the United States on the day that has been declared a national day of combating the powers of world arrogance.

Interior Minister Besharati's response to a question by the Rasht deputy gives the impression that the commemoration of this day and the marches by students on 4 November [anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy by Iranian students] can only be done through government channels.

If the students of this country, who are part of an enlightened, dynamic, and aware society, have to surmount a barricade called a government directive to express their hatred and to condemn the United States, how can they be expected to have a constant presence on the country's political scene?

In answer to the question by the Rasht deputy, the interior minister stated: "Our criterion for granting permission to stage marches on 4 November is the directive which is a legal document, and we can grant permission to only one organization and that is the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council."

Minister, Sir! Please note that on the day that it becomes necessary for students to be present on the political scene to condemn the powers of world arrogance, it will not be possible to drag them to that scene with a directive.

Yes. The law is to be respected and its implementation is necessary and it is binding on all. However, it is not possible to groom a society to be a spontaneous political one endowed with a high level of awareness and acumen merely by means of government circulars.

Minister: GATT Membership To Benefit Agriculture

LD1201143894 Tehran IRNA in English 1316 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Iran's membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) would benefit the agricultural sector, says Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari.

In an interview with the morning daily HAMSHAHRI published Wednesday, the minister said that Iran and other non-member countries would have to join GATT sooner or later. "However, we have to strengthen the infrastructure and structure of our economy in such a way to become able to enjoy the facilities which are to be provided by the agreement," Kalantari stressed.

He believed that Iran can obtain a favorable export market for its several agricultural products such as vegetables and green house products. After joining the GATT, the minister added, Iran has to introduce certain changes in its present agricultural patterns in the coming years. He noted that in future Iran should produce strategic products such as wheat, rice and sugar as much as are needed for domestic use only.

Should Iran be able to benefit from the facilities provided by GATT, it would get a good chance for exporting its agricultural products, he maintained.

Moreover, Kalantari added, with implementation of the agreement, the world prices for Iranian agricultural products would increase.

Iran should become self-sufficient in wheat production as soon as possible, because, he said, the world prices for this strategic product are on the rise.

Bank Governor: G-7 Talks 'Directed Against Iran'

LD1301100094 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli said that the impending G-7 meeting in Paris is directed against Iran. 'Adeli, quoted by the Thursday issue of the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES', said reports indicated that Washington was exerting pressures on the G-7 to keep Tehran in isolation.

The Group of Seven including the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, France, and Japan is to meet in Paris on January 16. He further elaborated that the Western media launched on a U.S.-orchestrated propagnda on Iran's debts to create an anti-Iran international public opinion. Then Washington decided to air this baseless issue in the G-7 meeting, he said.

Admitting that Iran has some financial problems due to the prevailing economic situation in the world, he told the daily that while the most industrialized countries have faced economic recession, others also felt its impact directly or indirectly.

He was quoted as saying that the drop in oil prices at the international market adversely affected Iranian foreign currency revenues, "as a result, during the years of 1991, 1992 and 1993, we received dlrs. [dollars] 9,500 million less than we had anticipated."

Turning to the Iranian debts, 'Adeli brushed aside western propaganda in this regard and said Iran has dlrs. 8,000 million to be paid. The payment of the amount has been delayed, said the CBI governor, due to the non-cooperative attitude of insurance agencies to cover medium and long-term credits.

"We were obliged to make most of our trade on cash or short-term credit basis making ourselves vulnerable to the oil price fluctuations," he told TEHRAN TIMES.

'Adeli said that Iran has to pay to foreign private companies and private sectors and not governments and that there were no problems with them regarding the repayment process.

"But it is the governments that are exerting pressure on their private sectors to force the early payments and in this way those governments want to take an unfair advantage under the present situation."

He stressed that most of European governments want to solve the debt problems but the U.S. is creating unnecessary hurdles on their way.

"The U.S. is going to put further pressure on European countries, as well as on Japan, in the Paris meeting on the so-called debts of Iran. In fact the U.S. wanted to see what concessions it could get from the Islamic Republic."

'Adeli said to TEHRAN TIMES, "we do not owe the U.S. anything, but that country along with Britain will continue to initiate a negative stance against Iran."

Talks are under way with Japan and Italy to solve the current problems.

Turning to the stand of France and Germany, he said their recent moves were far from Iran's expectations particularly regarding Bonn that had promised to solve the financial issues without making much noise.

He said that Iran imports German goods worth 8,000 million marks annually while 1,500 million marks worth of Iranian products are exported to that country each year.

'Adeli said dlrs. 92,000 million was planned to be spent during the first 5-year plan but because of the drop in oil prices the figure was reduced to dlrs. 80,000 million, 30 percent of which was invested in basic projects.

On the achievements of the plan, he told the paper that up to 1990 Iran imported two million tons of steel annually but now exports 700,000 tons each year.

He added that over the same period the country imported two million tons of cement annually but now has reached self-sufficiency and in some cases even exports cement.

The country's annual import of 4.5 million tons of wheat has dropped to 1.5 to 1.2 million tons and import of petrochemical products lowered from dlrs. 800 million to 600 million in 1993, the paper quoted him as saying.

Iran exports goods worth dlrs. 1,200 million annually including carpets, pistachios and saffron. Besides it also exports dlrs. 2,300 million worth of non-oil industrial goods each year compared to dlrs. 700 million a few years ago.

Nepal

Conflicting Reports Over Kathmandu Clash

BK1201125894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 12 (AFP)—As many as three people were killed and 32 others suffered bullet and batton injuries following a clash between police and residents of the Damak district, southeast of Kathmandu, reports reaching the capital said Wednesday.

A government official, however, reported only one death and eight injuries in clashes that took place late Tuesday afternoon between police and an infuriated crowd protesting alleged police brutality in the Damak district, 298 kilometres (186 miles) southeast of here.

A senior official of the home ministry said that a mob of over 5,000 local residents attacked the Damak police station, throwing stones and smashing windows. They also smashed the windshields of two police vehicles.

At least 30 police officers were injured in the melee, the official said.

But a Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) source told AFP that three civilians had died and 32 were injured.

Police fired tear-gas shells, blank rounds and finally a few live rounds to disperse the crowd, a senior government official said.

"Eight people received bullet injuries while others were injured in a police batton charge," the official said.

"The political situation at Damak is now quiet and normalcy has returned after a meeting of political party workers and local administration authorities," the official added.

The incident was sparked after police allegedly mistreated an elderly woman whom they had asked to clear the street.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Spokesman on Afghanistan, Bosnia

BK1201143794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 12 Jan 94

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of continued air attacks on the capital, Kabul, for the consecutive third day today after the 36-hour temporary cease-fire broke down on Monday. Reports say General Rashid Dostam's jet planes made three sorties today and bombed the presidential palace and key positions of Afghan government. There are also reports of intense fighting in Mazar-e Sharif between the rival Afghan factions.

Since the outbreak of fighting in Kabul on 1 January, hundreds of civilians have been forced to flee their homes. More than 14,000 people have taken refuge in Pakistan. They reached Peshawar via Jalalabad. According to the representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

[UNHCR], at least 50,000 displaced people have reached Jalalabad. UNHCR has sent 7,100 tents to Jalalabad. Food, blankets, and medicines have also been dispatched.

A Foreign Office spokesman termed the situation in Afghanistan as tragic and hoped that the warring factions would respond positively to the appeal of the president, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, and the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, for cessation of hostilities from Friday morning. The spokesman told at a news briefing in Islamabad today that there had been a large number of civilian casualties in the fighting and hoped that the cease-fire would be accepted so that the medicines and relief supplies could be rushed to Afghanistan. He said so far over 14,000 Afghan nationals have been registered by Pakistani and UN officials, besides those who have arrived in Pakistan. The spokesman said 54 diplomatic personnel from Pakistan, Turkey, Libya, Sudan, United Nations, and other international agencies have been evacuated to Pakistan via Jalalabad.

The spokesman said Pakistan has convened a meeting of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] contact group at ministerial level in Geneva on Monday to review the latest developments in Bosnia. The meeting convened at the request of President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia will be presided over by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. He said Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto, along with the Turkish prime minister, Madam Tansu Ciller, will visit the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, on 2d of next month as a gesture of solidarity with the Bosnian people.

Main Crossing Point With Afghanistan Closed

BK1301051494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0424 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan 13 (AFP)—The Pakistani government has closed its main crossing point on the border with Afghanistan, in a bid to halt a flood of Afghan refugees fleeing the fighting in Kabul, officials said Thursday.

Thousands of Afghans were blocked after the border crossing at Torkham, in the northwest of Pakistan, was ordered closed Wednesday, witnesses said.

Habibullah Khan, the government's representative for the KHYBER AGENCY, said only those bearing a passport and a valid visa for Pakistan would be admitted into the country.

A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Pakistani authorities were willing to help the refugees, but this had to be done in Afghanistan.

Tens of thousands of civilians have fled Kabul since fighting erupted between rival factions there on January 1.

Pakistan housed three million Afghan refugees during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Several hundred thousand returned home after the communist regime fell in April 1992.

Army Likely To Stay in Sindh Until June

BK1301100394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Jan 94 p 4

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Interior Minister Maj Gen (retd) Naseerullah Babar. Wednesday said army's operation clean-up in Sindh was likely to continue until June.

Talking to newsmen here at the exhibition of Japanese calendars, he said the police and Rangers were being retrained to handle the situation in the province.

He said the government was planning to introduce police and jail reforms to improve the law and order situation in the country.

The minister said the Peshawar-based Arab volunteers had been asked to leave the country before January 31. He said the government had decided not to renew the passports of the nationals of other countries residing in Pakistan. He said the government was facing some difficulties due to its earlier decision to issue passports to 150,000 foreigners.

About the presence of RAW [Research and Analysis Wing] agents in the country, the minister said the number of Indians visiting Pakistan had increased manifold after the late President Zia's cricket diplomacy. He said a large number of Indians made it difficult for police to check them properly.

About the process of accountability, the minister said: "We do not want to harass any one. The government has always taken the nation into confidence over major issues."

Commenting on the possibility of filing reference against the Nawaz government functionaries, he said: "We should be positive." However, he said, the matter would be decided after the finalisation of enquiry report of schemes like Motorway and yellow cab. "Whoever plundered the national exchequer will be taken to task," he said.

He said: "There is no emergency. We do not have much time to continue chasing them. We should be firm, the cases should not be half-baked like the previous government had done. It was just the waste of time and money."

Commenting on Nusrat Bhutto's recent remarks, he said the government was stable and becoming more and more stable day-by-day. He said Nusrat referred to an astrologer and her comment was not based on any political analysis. "We do not want to be disrespectful to anyone. She is the mother of the Prime Minister, but no one is above the law.

Asking the press not to exploit the family matter, he said: "Nusrat is a mother who faced many tragedies."

Gen. Naseerullah Babar said the opposition was trying to satisfy their ego. "They are not harming us but the national interest," he said.

Referring to Nawaz's visit to Bosnia, the minister said it should be investigated as to how he got money for the visit. He said it was up to the CBR [Central Board of Revenue] to enquire into the matter.

About Mir Murtaza Bhutto, he said: "if he is declared innocent by the court, we will have no objections to his release. Let the law take its course. Murtaza Bhutto was not a political threat to the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government as he had no impact on the party."

About Altaf Hussain, he said: "The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader will meet the same fate as Murtaza Bhutto had faced," adding that the law was same for everyone.

Sharif Alleges Corruption by Bhutto Family

BK1201121394 Islamabad THE NATION in English 12 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Lahore—Former Prime Minister and PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] Chief Mian Nawaz Sharif has said there are three parallel power centres both in Punjab and Sindh, and also in the Federal Government where Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her husband Asif Ali Zardari have created two set-ups to run the State affairs and this situation would, ultimately, lead to the collapse of the present Government.

Addressing a Press conference at his Model Town residence on Tuesday, he said the three power centres in Sindh were headed by Chief Minister Abdullah Shah, Prime Minister Secretariat and Asif Ali Zardari, while in Punjab on the same line Chief Minister Manzoor Wattoo, Faisal Saleh Hayat and Asif Ali Zardari had their independent establishments to run the governmental affairs and this situation would not last long. Lashing out at the policies of the Benazir Government, he said the design of the Motorway approved by his Government had been changed and the number of lanes reduced to four from six just to lessen the expenditure of Rs [rupees] 20 billion, but it would incur a loss of Rs 30 billion to exchequer in form of fine and the contract of a Turkish firm had also been cancelled.

Any change in the design would mar the concept of the Motorway and it would be just an ordinary road. The cancellation of the contract with the Turkish contractor would affect "our relations with Turkey" and everybody knows who is behind this machination, he added.

Mian Nawaz Sharif alleged that the Benazir Government allotted a plot in a Karachi katchi abadi [slum] to a person after getting a bribe of Rs 120 million and also awarded licences for three sugar mills in Sindh and "everyone knows who is the man behind the game or who is the shareholder". He informed the newsmen that Safdar Abbas Zaidi who was involved in the fraud of Rs 130 million in the past had now been appointed as Chairman Investment Board.

The former Prime Minister said that the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was going to Switzerland along with her family to settle the accounts of Rs 20 billion and there was no other purpose to visit that country. When he was asked about the efforts of the PML (C) [Pakistan Muslim League-Chatha] for reunification with his faction he remarked "I am representing the largest political party of the country and there is no other Muslim League and there is no room for those individuals who have come to the Assemblies through PPP [Pakistan People's Party]".

Criticising the present Government's foreign policy Mian Nawaz Sharif said that Benazir Bhutto's recent tours to different countries were 'purposeless' and devoid of commitment. He said that during his visit to Bosnia he witnessed the helplessness of the Bosnian Muslims who were the victims of Serbs brutality and the champions of the New World Order should come to the rescue of the oppressed Bosnians.

He further said that the NATO leaders meeting in Brussels should come at with a clear line of action either to stop aggression against Bosnians or let them defend themselves lifting arms embargo.

He criticised Benazir Bhutto for not giving a warm reception to the Bosnian Prime Minister on his visit to Pakistan and said that Government showed a lack of commitment on the issues of Bosnia and Kashmir which were experiencing through similar circumstances.

On the Afghanistan situation, Mian Nawaz Sharif said that the present Government did not help Afghanistan in its reconstruction whereas "our Government created an atmosphere of accommodation and goodwill among the warring factions following the Islamabad Accord".

Spokesman Denies Press Report on Nuclear Policy

BK1301031694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Pakistan has again categorically stated that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only and it does not possess a nuclear weapon, nor does it intend to manufacture any. A Foreign Office spokesman said at a press briefing in Islamabad yesterday that Pakistan is firmly committed to the objective of nuclear nonproliferation and it will accept any just and nondiscriminatory mechanism for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. He was commenting on a report published in a local English daily which misquoted the prime minister's statement. The spokesman clarified that the statement as quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS does not represent Pakistan's policy, nor was it part of the statement made by the prime minister.

Reports on Clashes With India 'Baseless'

BK1301083894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] An official spokesman has categorically denied reports that the Pakistani and the Indian troops were involved in heavy clashes in the Naushahra sector of Jammu on late Monday night which resulted in casualties on both sides. He said that no such incident took place and the charge that the Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing was baseless. However, it may be pointed out that the Indian troops have been indiscriminately firing from across the Line of Control on the Azad Kashmir

civilian population. Special complaints regarding all such incidents are being regularly filed by Pakistan with the United Nations military observers group in Pakistan.

Islamic Nations Urged To Unify Against India

BK1201143394 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 5 Jan 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Kashmir Issue—the Writing on the Wall; What Ought to be Done?"]

[Text] The seventh round of India-Pakistan secretary-level talks has failed and Pakistan has refused to hold any further negotiations with India. The foreign secretaries have admitted that they have not been able to narrow their differences on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan has proposed a five-point formula to resolve the dispute. Under this formula, Islamabad has asked India to withdraw troops from occupied Kashmir; lift the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine and allow the people to pray there; improve the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir; immediately release detained Kashmiri leaders; and allow representatives of international organizations, the news media, and diplomats to visit Kashmir so that the world is aware of the actual situation there. In response to these Pakistani proposals, India has displayed its traditional intransigence. For the first time, it sat across the negotiating table allegedly without any preparations and described the relevant UN resolutions as outdated. In his news conference the Indian foreign secretary reiterated that the UN resolutions have become irrelevant and that India has repeated this position over and over again. By this, the Indian foreign secretary meant to convey that New Delhi considers Kashmir an integral part of India. Only a day before the start of the current round of negotiations, Indian Defense Minister Dinesh Singh also reaffirmed this policy. In light of these statements, the process of dialogue was nothing but a totally meaningless and futile exercise.

The only salient feature, if there was any, of this dialogue was that for the first time India accepted Kashmir as an item on the agenda for discussion, but New Delhi maintained its usual intransigence, showing no change in its attitude toward the Kashmir issue.

It is, however, worth noting that the Indian foreign secretary was given extraordinarily warm treatment. Both the president and the prime minister spared time to meet him and the Pakistani foreign secretary held a record two-hour one-on-one meeting. On the other hand, the fact that the president went hunting in his ancestral district of Rajanpur and the prime minister left Islamabad and convened a meeting of her Cabinet in Karachi, some 1,000 miles away, reflects how serious they were about these negotiations. It is only the government that can understand the logic of this contradictory attitude—the flurry of publicity on one hand and the leaders' apathy on the other—toward these talks.

Nonetheless, the fact that the talks would fail was no secret. With India describing Kashmir as an integral part, there was no room for any dialogue and no meaning in conducting that futile exercise. If Pakistan knew all this in advance, then why did it agree to hold the dialogue? Was it intended to please India or did it not have the courage to resist U.S. pressure? Had we created a national consensus on this extremely sensitive national issue by mobilizing the support of all opposition parties and political and national leaders before the talks and then faced the Indian delegation at the negotiating table from a position of strength, it would have served us well. Earlier, in the hope of promoting goodwill, Pakistan also withdrew its resolution [on Kashmir] from the UN General Assembly, thereby failing to gain the advantages it could have by introducing it in the international body.

Now, after the conclusion of the dialogue, the government has announced that there will be no further talks with India, but none of the authorities, including the foreign secretary, foreign minister, prime minister or president have taken the trouble to tell the people what their policy is for at least resolving the Kashmir dispute, or—God forbid—they have decided to leave the oppressed and helpless Muslims of the Jammu and Kashmir valley to the mercy of the Indian beasts. We hope such thinking does not exist at any level of the government. Wisdom demands that a national policy on the Kashmir cause be adopted, rising above partisan prejudices. For this purpose, the government should convene an all-party conference which should emphasize the need for resolving the Kashmir dispute only on the basis of the UN resolutions. Later, efforts should also be made to form a strong Islamic bloc at the global level to place the Islamic community on a single platform to help resolve all serious problems, like Bosnia, Palestine, and Kashmir. Several Muslim countries call Pakistan "brother" and India "friend," and are not ready to displease the "friend" for the sake of pleasing the "brother." So long as the Islamic community is not persuaded to enforce an economic and political boycott of India, nothing good can be expected from New Delhi. As the proverb—a nod for the wise and a rod for the fool—goes, we need to increase our strength to deal with India.

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